

Hafa Adai!

'When you see something, say something.' **PAGE 2**
DPL issues notices of default, violations vs. IPI. **PAGE 4**

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HK Airlines to resume flights in April



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Hong Kong Airlines is now set to return to Saipan in April starting off with two weekly flights from Hong Kong to Saipan.

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The long-anticipated return of Hong Kong Airlines is just a few weeks away, with the Commonwealth Ports Authority confirming yesterday the airline's first flight back to the Marianas is set for April.

See **FLIGHTS** on Page 4

DPL issues notices of default and violations against IPI

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Public Lands Secretary Teresita A. Santos has issued a notice of default and notice of violations against Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC for breach of lease by failing to submit fire and dam-

age insurance and liability insurance, among others.

In her letter to IPI president Lingli Cai last Wednesday, Santos gave IPI 30 days to cure the violations and stated that failure to cure will place IPI in automatic default of the land lease with DPL.

See **DPL** on Page 4

House committee finds Villanueva in contempt

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Members of the House of Representatives Committee

on Federal Assistance & Disaster-related Funding unanimously found Shayne Villanueva in contempt yesterday for refusing to answer

any questions—at the advice of his lawyer—relating to the committee's investigation into the previous administration's Building Optimism, Oppor-

tunity, and Stability Together grant program.

Villanueva, of Roil Soil, repeatedly invoked his Fifth

See **HOUSE** on Page 4



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

In this screengrab taken from a YouTube video, Shayne Villanueva takes his oath before the House of Representatives Committee on Federal Assistance and Disaster-related Funding that is investigating the previous administration's grant program, in the House chamber yesterday morning. Behind Villanueva is his counsel, Keith Chambers. The committee found Villanueva in contempt for invoking his Fifth Amendment right and refusing to answer any questions from the committee.

'Let's be transparent'

GOV. ARNOLD I. PALACIOS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Arnold I. Palacios is the 10th governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.



Last week, the Commonwealth Casino Commission finally moved to revoke the exclusive casino license of Imperial Pacific International. The hearing was pushed back no less than three times. IPI tried up to the very last minute to stop it from happening by filing for a temporary restraining order in federal court.

They failed.

Years of lawsuits, unpaid workers and vendors, broken promises, and an unfinished shell of a hotel building at the

See **TRANSPARENT** on Page 4

INSIDE



NATION

The Supreme Court on Monday unanimously restored Donald Trump to 2024 presidential primary ballots, rejecting state attempts to ban the Republican former president over the Capitol riot.

PAGE 12



WORLD

A new report said there are "reasonable grounds" to believe Hamas committed rape, "sexualized torture," and other cruel and inhumane treatment of women during its surprise attack in southern Israel on Oct. 7.

PAGE 13



LIFE & STYLE

Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong on Tuesday defended an exclusive deal his city-state struck with Taylor Swift that prevents the pop star taking her current Eras Tour to anywhere else in Southeast Asia.

PAGE 5



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Local

‘When you see something, say something’



CHRYSTAL MARINO

Community Guidance Center staff gathered together to learn and discuss how to better serve their community during the direct services and treatment teams meeting last Thursday at the Aqua Resort Club in Achugao.

By **CHRYSTAL MARINO**
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Seeking to better serve and help individuals in the community who battle with depression, mental health, trauma in the home, or thoughts of suicide, the Community Guidance Center staff gathered last Thursday at the Aqua Resort Club in Achugao not only for a training session but to also share and discuss what they learned

to do in certain situations.

The training session, a quarterly meeting of the direct services and treatment teams, also known as DSATT, also had special guest from Hawaii, Wendy Schwartz, a licensed clinical social worker at the VA Pacific Islands Healthcare System.

She shared some steps she's learned working in the suicide prevention program, and in case management for those suffering from severe and per-

sistent mental illness.

Their meeting last Thursday focused on communicating with individuals who struggle with suicidal thoughts, Schwartz said.

"I felt like this was a great opportunity for us to get together and create some more learning opportunities for people to be able to practice these skills, to be able to talk about suicide in our community, to be able to use this specific tool, the Columbia Suicide Severity

Rating Tool, to be able to determine how much assistance somebody needs and be able to provide the right kind of help to people in need," she said.

As discussed that day, the steps may vary slightly when addressing different individuals but the structure stays the same: communication is the key, Schwartz said, and suicide prevention is everyone's business.

Sometimes there is cultural value that everyone needs to

mind their own business, but sometimes, especially when it comes to suicide prevention, it can be helpful to be a little nosy, she said.

If someone sees something, but is uncomfortable with confronting the person, there is a hotline for emergencies like these—the 988 hotline.

"So if you're paying attention, you notice something, and you feel comfortable going to talk to that person, that's great. If you don't feel comfortable going to talk to that person, you can always call 988," she said.

Also, sometimes learning new skills can help people feel more comfortable talking to somebody, Schwartz said, adding that there are trainings that are offered in the community that help people learn how to ask the question: "Are you thinking about suicide?"

"So that's also another opportunity where people can learn about suicide and learn about how to ask the question and then how to give people the help that they need," she said.

Schwartz said the proper tools can help guide people in these types of conversation, "but it really is about providing people the opportunity to share about what it is that they're going through. So yes, we have a specific set of questions that we're asking, but we're also really just having a conversation. We're creating a space where people can trust

us and they can feel like they can trust about the pain that they're going through."

During the training, which lasted from 8am to 12:30pm, there were also role-playing situations, which not only caused gathered staff to share their concerns and questions, but also glean knowledge of their team members.

Dr. Glenda George, director of Behavioral Health Services at CGC, shared that training sessions are not only important for the clients they work with, but is also helpful for the emotional intelligence and mental health of their staff.

"Part of the reason we have these quarterly direct service and treatment team meetings is we want to create an atmosphere of learning, mentorship, and collaboration amongst our team members. And again, the intention is that we can develop skills within our programs so that our staff are well-equipped and have the knowledge they need to do the work they do. At the same time, they're fostering a nurturing and supportive environment to continue to enjoy the work that they do. Because we understand that mental health can have a heavy impact on their own personal self-care and well-being, we want to ensure that we take care of our staff and give them that opportunity as well to take care of themselves. And, most importantly, feel confident in the work that they do through furthering their skills and their ability to work with the community."

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Hafa Adair
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THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER



PUBLIC NOTICE

The CNMI Department of Commerce, Central Statistics Division will start the CNMI 2024 Prevailing Wage Study (PWS) survey beginning on March 01, 2024 and notifies all businesses and employers in the CNMI to log on to the CSD Data Collection Portal and complete the PWS survey questionnaire.

All businesses and employers (Private & Public), with and with no employees, are urged to complete this survey before March 15, 2024.

Data Collection Portal Link:
<https://cnmidata.commerce.gov.mp/>

'Suspect in MHS sex assault case advised not to talk to investigators'

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The sexual assault case involving a Marianas High School student and teacher remains under investigation, with the teacher already retaining a lawyer that advised him not to communicate with investigators.

During a press conference with acting Department of Public Safety commissioner Anthony Macaranas last Friday, he shared some updates in the ongoing sexual assault investigation, saying the person of interest in the case, previously identified as a teacher by the Public School System, has retained counsel and has been advised not to speak with investigators.

No arrest has been made yet in the case.

"Due to the ongoing investigation of the incident, we are currently unable to provide



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Marianas High School campus in Susupe.

any further information. The person of interest in the investigation has retained legal counsel and has been advised not to communicate with our investigator. The investigator is waiting for a response from the person of interest's counsel regarding a time and date for the interview. As previously stated, this case is still active

and we will provide an update once we have more information," he said.

DPS previously shared that it received a call last Jan. 9 about a sexual assault of a minor incident at the MHS campus.

According to DPS, officers learned that a faculty member had been seen kissing a student on campus grounds.

Bill to create refund program for recycling junk cars is deemed to be 'unconstitutional'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios has found unconstitutional a local bill that seeks to create a refund program for the recycling of junk cars.

Palacios informed Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation chair Rep. John Paul P. Sablan (Ind-Saipan) and House of Representatives Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) on Monday that that he has vetoed House



Palacios

Local Bill 23-32, which was passed by the SNILD.

The bill proposes to establish a refund program for the recycling of junk cars by reserving 10% of the collected fees and penalties for the Department of Public Works.

Palacios said the Office of the Attorney General advises that the refund program envisioned by the local bill cannot be funded from Section 2119 funds because the SNILD lacks the authority to reserve funding set aside for the CNMI DPW, a Commonwealth-wide agency.

"It is the Legislature, not the delegation, which has the authority to expend these funds," the governor said.

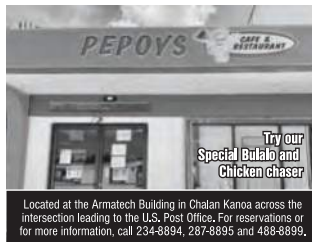
Rep. Manny T. Castro (Ind-Saipan) introduced the local bill on Dec. 27, 2023.

The SNILD passed the bill last Feb. 7.

Castro stated in the bill that the recycling of junk cars helps to reduce pollution, conserve natural resources and the recycled materials can be used to create innovative products. He said the CNMI should provide financial incentives for the recycling of junk cars on Saipan.

Under the bill, the mayor shall establish a refund

program for the recycling of junk cars and that the program shall provide a refund of \$300 for each junk car that is recycled.



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MOBILE CLINIC SCHEDULE

for March 2024

Adult Health Check

Mar 8th
& 15th

- Mar. 8 at NAP Office, As Lito from 8:00AM - 11:30AM
- Mar. 15 at Kagman Community Center, Kagman from 8:00AM - 11:30AM

Clinical check with provider includes routine wellness exam, physical screening for height and weight, and/or consultation for other concerns. Other community health services: blood pressure check, glucose check, resources & referrals.

Child Health Check

Mar 6th
& 22nd

- Mar. 6 at Joeten Kiyu Public Library, Susupe from 1:00PM - 4:30PM
- Mar. 22 at Lucky De Market, Dandan from 1:00PM - 4:30PM

For children 0-17 years old. Clinical check with provider includes developmental behavioral assessment, measurement and growth, other health screening, and/or consultation for other concerns.

Women Health Check

Mar 4th
& 18th

- Mar. 4 at WIC Office, Navy Hill from 8:00AM - 11:30AM
- Mar. 18 at Mount Carmel Cathedral, Chalan Kanoa from 8:00AM - 11:30AM

Recommended for women who haven't seen a provider in over a year for clinical services: Pap Smears, breast exams, prenatal care, postpartum care, and/or contraceptive counseling and methods



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'Rios' death not a homicide'

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety has now ruled that the

death of 67-year-old Jesus Pinaula Rios was not a homicide, but the cause of death of the Finasisu resident remains unknown.

During a news briefing last week with acting DPS commissioner Anthony Macaranas, Capt. Jeffrey Olopai, who is the commander of the

Criminal Bureau Investigations, said that DPS no longer treats the case as a homicide because, based on the findings reported by a local examiner, there was no trauma to the body and there were no obvious signs of foul play.

Olopai noted that the medical examiner, whom he did not identify, did an external investigation on Rios' remains but performed no autopsy on the body.

"There was an external examination conducted on the deceased on Feb. 27, and from

the findings of our local examiner, there was no indication of foul play, there was no trauma to the deceased at the time of the examination," he said.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

Pleasant Marianas weather throughout the week

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Marianas can expect fairly pleasant weather throughout the week, according to the National Weather Service in Guam.

The NWS reports in its weekly regional forecast that, with the exception of light, spotty showers, the Marianas should

expect pleasant weather.

"For the Marianas, expect pleasant weather conditions with partly cloudy skies, moderate trades of 10 to 15 mph, and only spotty light showers through the weekend," NWS reports.

The hazardous seas and high surf reported last week have also subsided.

"A moderate risk of rip currents is now expected along north, west and east facing reefs and beaches, and combined seas of 5 to 8 feet," it said.

Fire danger is currently high for the Marianas and will continue an upward trend with the expected dry conditions. A Fire Weather Watch is possible if daytime winds are stronger than

currently forecast, said NWS.

As for the drought outlook, NWS says severe drought continues to spread across the region.

"Below-normal rainfall is expected for most of the region the next few weeks, with the exception of islands closest to the equator. This will allow drought conditions to worsen for most locations in the coming weeks," said NWS.

HOUSE

From page 1

Amendment right in response to questions of committee members and declined to provide direct answers to the questions. The Fifth Amendment protects people from self-incrimination.

Villanueva said his responses were based on the advice of his lawyer, Keith Chambers, who was with him at the hearing.

In moving to find Villanueva in contempt, Rep. Marissa Renee Flores (Ind-Saipan) said the witness was repeatedly asked questions and he has repeatedly refused to testify under oath. Flores further moved that the special committee report to House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) and have the CNMI Attorney General prosecute Villagomez.

All nine committee members present at the hearing voted "yes" to the motion.

Aside from Flores and Rep. Ralph N. Yumul (Ind-Saipan), who chairs the special committee, the other members are vice chair Rep. Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan), Rep. John Paul P. Sablan (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Vicente C. Camacho (D-Saipan), Diego Vincent F. Camacho (D-Saipan), Rep. Angelo A. Camacho (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Blas Jonathan T. Attao (Ind-Saipan), and Rep. Vincent S. Aldan (Ind-Saipan).

Yumul said a letter from Villagomez to Attorney General Edward Manibusan will be forthcoming and that they will vote on it at the next meeting. Yumul set the next hearing for this Thursday at 10am, where witnesses Robert Travilla and Salina Sapp will appear.

Villanueva, Travilla, and Sapp were in charge of mar-

keting the BOOST Program.

The program used \$17 million in American Rescue Plan Act funds that some former and current House members alleged were awarded to many of the previous administration's cronies.

Attao had said at the hearing yesterday that "a person shall be in contempt if the person fails or refuses to answer any relevant question or fails or refuses to furnish any relevant book, paper, or other documents subpoenaed by or on behalf of an investigating committee" and warned Villanueva that he may be held in contempt if he withholds or refuses to answer any questions.

Attao said Villanueva has the right to plead the Fifth, but it's clear that he won't be answering any other questions.

When asked about his education and professional background as it relates to market-

ing or advertising and where Roil Soil is located, Villanueva again invoked the Fifth Amendment and declined to answer the questions.

Attao said it is clear that Villanueva will be pleading the Fifth Amendment on every question they would ask of him.

Propst also asked Villanueva if he is unwilling to answer any questions from the committee, but the witness gave the same Fifth Amendment reply.

At the miscellaneous part of the hearing, Propst said they are all disappointed that Villanueva is not willing to testify as they had many questions about not just the BOOST program, but also the Farmers, Fishermen, and Ranchers program that Villanueva was supposed to oversee.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

DPL

From page 1

When asked for IPI's comments yesterday, IPI director/manager Howyo Chi said they scheduled a meeting next week with DPL to address the issues.

If IPI fails to cure the violations, DPL will also be forced to take corrective action pursuant to Article 28 (remedies) of their lease, Santos said.

Pursuant to Article 28, upon termination of IPI's right to use the premises, DPL may, 15 days after the written notice, enter the premises and take possession of all buildings,

fixtures, and improvements except IPI's removable personal property, trade fixtures and equipment and evict IPI without liability of trespass.

"It is hoped that this will not be necessary as a last resort in addressing this matter," Santos told Cai in the letter.

She said DPL is giving notice to IPI that it is in default for failing to comply with the terms and conditions of their land lease agreement dated April 29, 2015.

The secretary said Article 19 of the lease provides that IPI "shall procure upon the completion of construction of the initial gaming facility, and maintain in force during the en-

tire lease term or any extension thereof, fire and damage insurance of the premises in a company or companies authorized to do business in the NMI, with extended coverage endorsements jointly in the names of" IPI and DPL, covering the full insurable value of all permanent improvements on the premises, subject to appropriate co-insurance provisions.

To cure the violation of Article 19, Santos said IPI must submit to DPL within 30 days proof of valid fire and damage insurance for the premises with extended coverage endorsements.

Article 20 of the lease also provides that IPI shall procure commercial general liability

insurance for the premises and operation. Santos said IPI must submit to DPL within 30 days proof of valid commercial general liability insurance for the premises and operation.

The secretary also found that IPI failed to submit government requirements, failed to use the premises for its stated purpose, failed to provide a copy of the CNMI Gross Revenue Tax monthly return, failed to provide annual reports and audit, mortgaging the property without express prior written DPL approval, and failed to use the premises for the purpose set forth in the lease for 90 days without DPL's consent.

flights back in 2020.

After an over three-year hiatus, Hong Kong Airlines will be relaunching its route with two flights a week, using a A330 aircraft, which has 280 seats per flight.

Concepcion previously said the MVA is optimistic that Hong Kong Airlines will further boost the CNMI's tourism industry as there is a pent-up demand for travel in the area.

TRANSPARENT

From page 1

heart of our tourist district in Garapan have brought us to this point. But at last week's hearing, in testimony under oath, IPI director Howyo Chi falsely accused me of backing out on a deal.

According to Mr. Chi's sworn testimony at the revocation hearing, settlement terms totaling \$50 million were mutually agreed between IPI and the CCC but rejected when presented to me.

That is untrue.

In fact, after Mr. Chi had agreed to put terms discussed with the CCC in writing for my consideration, he instead presented me entirely different terms in writing with a third the monetary value.

The CCC and Office of the Attorney General flatly rejected those terms. I also rejected them. That proposal, under which IPI would pay only \$15 million of the more than \$60 million it owes the Commonwealth in arrears, was the only one ever tendered to me before the revocation hearing commenced on Feb. 28.

I was brought into settlement discussions between IPI and the CCC late in the game—on Feb. 6, just two weeks ahead of what was then the revocation hearing date. My involvement was necessary only to the extent that any settlement would require my signature on yet another amendment to IPI's casino license agreement.

From the beginning, I was clear that I wanted the opportunity to carefully review proposed settlement terms in writing before making any decisions on a license amendment. I wanted to make sure that the terms of any settlement would be beneficial to the Commonwealth and have the endorsement of the CCC and the OAG.

Although counsel for IPI and the CCC both agreed during settlement negotiations that the terms of settlement would be inadmissible in any other forum, IPI breached that agreement by eliciting testimony about settlement terms during the revocation hearing. It further filed a settlement proposal under seal that purportedly presents terms mutually agreed between IPI and the CCC.

IPI now publicly accuses me of rejecting that proposal. Let me be clear: I have not seen the proposal that was

filed under seal. I have no idea what the terms are.

During settlement negotiations, IPI not only threatened to refile lawsuits against the Commonwealth, the Casino Commissioners, and me if no agreement was reached; they also threatened to go to the media and the court of public opinion to claim that the Commonwealth was leaving money on the table. These promises, at least, they have kept.

Ironically, if not disingenuously, Mr. Chi expressed frustration with the Commonwealth government and claimed to not know who the government's decision-makers are. For nearly a decade that has been the Commonwealth's experience in dealing with IPI and holding them accountable. Negotiating with them has been like chasing butterflies in a field. Who's calling the shots at IPI?

The CNMI government's decision-makers are not obscure. The CCC has the sole authority under the law to revoke, reinstate, or approve a transfer of IPI's casino license. As governor, I have the authority to approve or disapprove a casino license amendment. And I cannot make a decision on terms I have not even seen.

If IPI is truly interested in "leaving the island peacefully" and settling its debts to the Commonwealth, it can begin by acting in good faith and transparency and providing in writing what I have requested all along: settlement terms that are fair and beneficial to the Commonwealth, agreeable to the CCC, and approved by the Attorney General.

Mr. Chi also testified under oath at the revocation hearing that he has been personally communicating with an outside investor, Kyosei Bank, since August 2023. IPI filed in federal court a memorandum of understanding, which it purportedly signed with Kyosei Bank in July 2023 but never disclosed to the CCC. This MOU promised a cash infusion which IPI's own exhibits in federal court demonstrate was never actually provided.

At last week's hearing, Mr. Chi testified that Kyosei has promised funding to complete the casino project well beyond what it outlined in this MOU. If this is in fact true, there is nothing barring IPI from simply paying what it owes the CNMI government and IPI's judgment creditors in the Commonwealth and federal courts.

FLIGHTS

From page 1

In a brief statement from CPA executive director Leo Tudela yesterday, he confirmed that Hong Kong Airlines is set to launch its first flight back to Saipan on April 28.

The return of Hong Kong Airlines has been in the works since last year, but the exact

date of the airlines' return has always been tentative.

Initially, it was to relaunch its Saipan route in November 2023. When that didn't happen, CNMI stakeholders were informed that the return of Hong Kong Airlines had been moved to February, but the relaunch was postponed anew to March.

Although the recently reported April 28 date is not

set in stone just yet, there is a good chance it is more accurate as *Saipan Tribune* has learned that Hong Kong Airlines staff have started coming back to Saipan in preparation for the airline's return.

It was learned in a previous interview with Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Chris Concepcion that Hong Kong Airlines suspended its Hong Kong-Saipan

CNMI Judiciary marks 35th anniversary by hosting Covenant Day *Konbetsasion*

On March 21, as part of its celebration of the 35th anniversary of the Northern Marianas Judiciary, the Supreme Court, along with the Judiciary Historical Society, and with help from Northern Marianas College, will host the inaugural Covenant Day *Konbetsasion*: “Understanding the Covenant.”

The panel discussion will focus on broadening understanding of the visions and goals that shaped the process that formed the Commonwealth and its relationship with the United States. Notable panelists participating in the discussion will include Pedro A. Tenorio and Manuel A. Sablan, members of the Marianas Political Status Commission who negotiated and signed the Covenant, as well as Superior Court Judge Lillian A. Tenorio, and assistant attorney general Rellani B. Ogomoro. The discussion will be moderated by NMC president Dr. Galvin S. Deleon Guerrero.

The public is invited to join the Judiciary at the Guma’ Hustisia from 10am to 11:30am. The event will



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

U.S. President Gerald Ford signs the Covenant Agreement that allowed the Northern Mariana Islands to enter into a political union with the United States, but with the right to local self-government on March 24, 1976.

be livestreamed on the Judiciary website, Facebook page, and YouTube channel. A recording of the event will be produced by NMC.

The event is free and open to the public, with opportunities to pose questions to the

panelists. All are encouraged to attend and take part in the discussion. Seating is limited.

Information on celebrations of the Judiciary’s 35th Anniversary taking place throughout the year can be found at NMIJudiciary.gov. **(PR)**



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AMENDED JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 04-2024

Opening date: March 04, 2024 Closing date: March 22, 2024

Location: SAIPAN

Position(s): (2) AOA Controller-I
(1) ARFF Mechanic II
(1) Comptroller
(1) Custodial
(1) Master Electrician
(1) Procurement Technician
(1) Receptionist/Secretary
(1) Safety Officer/Quality Control Specialist

SALARY

PL 5/1 to 5/12 (\$8.83/hr to \$15.10/hr)
PL 6/1 to 6/12 (\$9.27/hr to \$15.85/hr)
UNGRADED
PL 1/1 to 1/12 (\$7.26/hr to 12.42/hr)
PL 19/1 to 19/12 (\$17.48/hr to \$29.90/hr)
PL 9/1 to 9/12 (\$10.73/hr to \$18.35/hr)
PL 5/1 to 5/12 (\$8.83/hr to \$15.10/hr)
Minimum: \$36,356.89/annum
Maximum: \$62,182.63/annum

Location: TINIAN

Position(s): (1) General Maintenance

SALARY

PL 2/1 to 2/12 (\$7.63/hr to \$13.04/hr)

Location: ROTA

Position(s): (1) AOA Controller/Ground Maintenance-I
(2) Custodial/Maintenance-I

SALARY


PL 5/1 to 5/12 (\$8.83/hr to \$15.10/hr)
PL 2/1 to 2/12 (\$7.63/hr to \$13.04/hr)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the **CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office, Tinian International Airport, or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport**. Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than **5:00 P.M. on Friday, March 22, 2024**.

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays and austerities, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin, Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.robert@cnmiports.com and hrrspecialist@cnmiports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

LEO B. TUDELA
Executive Director



CHILDREN DESERVE THE BEST QUALITY CARE!

Child Care and Development Fund Program-Subsidy Waitlist Applications are available!

PARENT'S/LEGAL GUARDIAN ELIGIBILITY:

- Parent/s OR Legal Guardian must be in a CCDF approved activity (WORK, SCHOOL or JOB TRAINING) & must reside in the CNMI.
- Working Parent/s OR Legal Guardian must be working at a minimum of 30 hours per week or is scheduled to start work in 2 weeks, OR
- In Job Training for a minimum of 10 hours per week, OR
- Attending an education program on a full-time basis
- Have a gross monthly income that does not exceed Federal Poverty Income Guideline for a family of the same size.

CHILD'S ELIGIBILITY:

- Child must reside with the parent who is in a CCDF approved activity (work, school or training).
- Be under the age of 13/children under 18 y/o with Special Needs may qualify (Must provide supporting documents)
- Must be a US citizen
- Must be residing in the CNMI

For more information regarding eligibility requirements, please contact CCDF Eligibility Workers at:

- For Saipan, please contact 670-664-2589/95/75/76
- For Tinian, please contact 670-433-2233
- For Rota, please contact 670-532-3222

You may also visit childcare.gov.mp for more information or to download the CCDF Subsidy Waitlist Application Packet.

Are you in full time work, school or training?


Do you need someone to care for your children while you are in work, school or training?


Do you want a family member, friend or a daycare provider to care for your children?

You may qualify for Quality Child Care services!


DCCA-CHILD CARE & DEVELOPMENT FUND PROGRAM

Bldg. #1347,Capitol Hill, Saipan
664-2575/76/89/95
childcare.gov.mp





Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Department of Community and Cultural Affairs
Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Program
Caller Box 10007 Bldg. No. 1347/1344 Ascension Drive
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Website: www.childcare.gov.mp



Vision for Children and Families:
“All children in the CNMI will be safe, healthy, and thriving members of our culturally diverse community. Their families will have access to the high quality supports they need to achieve their potential.”

Effective February 1, 2024, to September 30, 2026



Eligibility Guidelines	
Family Size	Income Level
1	3,508.00
2	4,587.00
3	5,667.00
4	6,746.00
5	7,825.00
6	8,905.00
7	9,108.00
8	9,306.00
9	9,512.00

Sliding Fee Scale/Monthly Co-payments									
Family Income	Family Size 1	Family Size 2	Family Size 3	Family Size 4	Family Size 5	Family Size 6 Max limit \$120.00	Family Size 7 Max limit \$120.00	Family Size 8 Max limit \$120.00	Family Size 9 Max limit \$120.00
\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
\$1 to \$1500	waived	waived	waived	waived	waived	waived	waived	waived	waived
\$1501 to \$2500	\$10.00	\$20.00	\$30.00	\$40.00	\$50.00	\$60.00	\$70.00	\$80.00	\$90.00
\$2501 to \$3000	\$20.00	\$30.00	\$40.00	\$50.00	\$60.00	\$70.00	\$80.00	\$90.00	\$100.00
\$3001 to \$3508	\$30.00	\$40.00	\$50.00	\$60.00	\$70.00	\$80.00	\$90.00	\$100.00	\$110.00
\$3509 to \$4587		\$50.00	\$60.00	\$70.00	\$80.00	\$90.00	\$100.00	\$110.00	\$120.00
\$4588 to \$5667			\$70.00	\$80.00	\$90.00	\$100.00	\$110.00	\$120.00	\$120.00
\$5668 to \$6746				\$90.00	\$100.00	\$110.00	\$120.00	\$120.00	\$120.00
\$6747 to \$7825					\$110.00	\$120.00	\$120.00	\$120.00	\$120.00
\$7826 to \$8905						*\$130.00	\$120.00	\$120.00	\$120.00
\$8906 to \$9108							\$120.00	\$120.00	\$120.00
\$9109 to \$9306							\$120.00	\$120.00	\$120.00
\$9307 to \$9512								\$120.00	\$120.00

Note: For families with 5 or more children, the maximum co-payment limit will be at \$120.00 monthly.
*This will apply to family size of 6 in a 2-parent household.

FOR CCDF PROGRAM USE ONLY

Source/s of Income Salary and Wages: Pension: Unemployment: Workmen's Comp: Rental Income: Alimony: Military Allotment: Child Support: Food Stamp: WIC: Others: Comments: Check dates:	Eligibility Disposition: Family Size: Eligibility Level: Monthly Gross Income: Income Larger than Eligibility Scale: Income below eligibility scale: Co-payment: Eligibility completed by/date: Comments: Recommended for: <input type="checkbox"/> Approval <input type="checkbox"/> Disapproval Notes: Eligibility Specialist Initials:
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COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

CUC-RFP-24-014

PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF A NEW 2MW GENSET UNIT FOR ROTA POWER PLANT

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified Contractors or Vendors for the purchase and installation of a new genset for the Rota Power Plant located in Songsong, Rota. The purchase of and installation of the new genset with approximately 2MW of total net output will improve CUC current power generation capacity needed to sustain critical electrical services to the community of Rota.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration for one RFP package set. Prospective proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division by **March 8, 2024** to be considered.

A Pre-proposal Conference will be held on **February 22, 2024 at 9:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies of your submission must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **“CUC-RFP-24-014, Purchase and Installation of a 2MW New Genset Unit for the Rota Power Plant”** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 A.M.(ChST) on March 19, 2024**. Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before the due date and time.

All Offerors are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor’s preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes which will become the obligation of the proposer awarded a contract.



This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 27, 2024**, to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org, with a copy to Alvin King, CUC Rota Resident Manager at alvin.king@cucgov.org, Richard Cano, CUC Power Generation Manager at richard.cano@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, Senior Administrative Technician at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

BETTINA G. TERLAJE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

CUC-RFP-24-013

PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF NEW GENSET UNITS FOR SAIPAN, POWER PLANT NO.4

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified Contractors or Vendors for the purchase and installation of new gensets for Power Plant No.4 located on the island of Saipan. The purchase and installation of the new gensets with approximately 6MW of total new output will improve CUC current power generation capacity needed to sustain critical electrical services to the community of Saipan.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration with CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The RFP package will be emailed to the registered email ID. Prospective Proposers for this RFP must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division by March 8, 2024 to be considered.

A Pre-proposal Conference followed by site visits will be held on **February 22, 2024 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies of your submission must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **“CUC-RFP-24-013, Purchase and Installation of New Genset Units for Saipan Power Plant No.4”** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 A.M.(ChST) on March 19, 2024**. Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before the due date and time. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes which will become the obligation of the proposer awarded a contract.

All Proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor’s preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. The Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 27, 2024**, to Manny Sablan, CUC’s Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Richard Cano, CUC’s Power Generation Manager via email richard.cano@cucgov.org and Christie L. Sablan, CUC’s Senior Administrative Technician via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

BETTINA G. TERLAJE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

TO ADDRESS TRANSPARENCY IN PRODUCT PRICING

Ogo wants bill to establish CNMI Price Council

Rep. Julie Ogo (Ind-Rota) has announced a legislative initiative aimed at addressing the lack of transparency surrounding product pricing in the Commonwealth, with a particular focus on Rota. Recognizing the challenges faced by citizens who struggle to access accurate information about pricing factors, Ogo is drafting legislation to establish a CNMI Price Council through the Office of the Governor.

The proposed CNMI Price Council seeks to promote

transparency and accountability in pricing practices, providing residents with the information necessary to make well-informed decisions about their purchases.

By creating a platform for stakeholders to engage in discussions about pricing mechanisms and factors, Ogo aims to empower consumers and alleviate the financial burden caused by high prices, especially in the face of current inflation and escalating shipping and fuel

costs. “This legislation is a crucial step toward ensuring that our constituents have access to the information they need to navigate the marketplace with confidence,” said Ogo. “By establishing a price council, we can work toward creating a more transparent and equitable pricing system that benefits all residents of Rota and the broader Commonwealth.”

Through this legislative initiative, Ogo reaffirms her commitment to addressing the concerns of her constituents and advocating for fair and equitable pricing policies. She encourages input and collaboration from all interested parties as the legislation takes shape, emphasizing the importance of collective efforts to ensure that the Price Council effectively serves the needs of the people of Rota and the wider Commonwealth. For further information, please contact Ogo at (670) 664-8888 or email kuentosmarianas@gmail.com. **(PR)**



Saipan mayor to share plans and projects in Chamber meeting today

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will hold its March general membership meeting today, March 6, from 11:30am to 1pm at Charley’s Room of Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

The meeting’s guest speaker is Saipan Mayor Ramon “RB” Camacho, who will share insights on his plans and projects under the Saipan Mayor’s Office. Jim Arenovski will also present on “The Importance of Training and Staff Development for Small Businesses” during the meeting.

At this meeting, attendees can also expect updates from Chamber committee chairs who will present updates on their activities and progress, showcasing the invaluable contributions made for the betterment of the local business community.

To register for the Chamber March general membership meeting, RSVP by visiting the following link: <https://business.saipanchamber.com/events/details/2024-march-general-membership-meeting-381>, contact the Chamber office at (670) 234-7150, or send the Chamber an email at contactus@saipan-chamber.org. Current registration fee is \$35 for Chamber members and \$40 for future Chamber members which includes a delicious lunch, networking opportunities, and good discussions. **(PR)**



DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES

CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

ITB NO.: RFP24-DCCA/DYS-42400044

SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 21, 2024 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

“TO PROVIDE A COMPREHENSIVE COUNSELING AND WRAP AROUND SERVICES FOR THE DCCA-DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES CLIENTS AND FAMILY MEMBERS SERVED UNDER THE CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES, EMERGENCY SHELTER, JUVENILE PROBATION AND THE FAMILY AND YOUTH ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED ON THE MUNIS VENDOR SELF SERVICE PORTAL (<https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/>) OR AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT BLDG NO. 12552, ANATAHAN DRIVE, CAPTIOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP CAN BE MADE TO THE DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES, BY MARCH 15, 2024, TO MS. VIVIAN T. SABLAN VIA EMAIL AT vtsablan@dys.gov.mp

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ VIVIAN T. SABLAN
ADMINISTRATOR,DYS

/S/ BRIEN S. NICHOLAS JR.
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS



DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES

CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

RFP NO.: RFP24-DPS-42400066

SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 27, 2024 TIME: 10:30 A.M.

“Consultant Services for Enhancement, Maintenance, Upgrades and Technical Support for the Island-Wide Traffic Safety Information Systems”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED ON THE MUNIS VENDOR SELF SERVICE PORTAL (<https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/>) OR AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT BLDG NO. 12552, ANATAHAN DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-305, 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ANTHONY MACARANAS
ACTING COMMISSIONER, DPS

/S/ BRIEN S. NICHOLAS JR.
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

Radewagen welcomes opportunity to pass COFA legislation as Pacific security priority

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Early Saturday morning, U.S. House of Representatives Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) informed Delegate Uifa’atali Amata Radewagen (R-A. Samoa) that House leaders had reached bipartisan agreement on a package of spending bills that includes renewal and funding for the Compacts of Free Association or COFA. Members of the full House will be asked to approve the bills this coming week.

“Amata is a valued member of our conference,” said the speaker. “I worked closely with her and particularly appreciated her leadership on the COFA renewal, which is of great importance to national security. When it comes to Pacific Island issues in the House, we always look to Amata.”

Radewagen expressed her appreciation for the speaker’s confidence and thanked him “for keeping me informed as he worked with other House leaders in deciding on the legislative vehicle for this urgent national security priority.” The congresswoman played a key role in moving the bill through the House, serving as chairman of the Natural Resources Committee’s Indo-Pacific Task Force, which took the lead in addressing the legislation proposed by the Biden Administration following diplomatic negotiations with the three compact nations.

“Under House rules, Members must be given 72 hours to review the content of the leg-

islation,” explained Radewagen, “so we anticipate a vote for final passage on Wednesday.” Once adopted by the House and Senate, COFA will serve as the foundation for relations for the next generation with the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau.

“As a representative from among the Pacific Island people, it was an honor to have a part in this historic legislation,” she continued. In addition to having been raised in American Samoa, her family lived in the Marshalls and Marianas for 17 years and she was schooled in Hawaii before graduating from the University of Guam.

“Most importantly, the COFA agreements send a clear message of U.S. commitment to the Pacific region and take a much-needed international strong stand for the ideals of democracy and freedom.”

After task force hearings chaired by Radewagen in July at Natural Resources Committee chairman Bruce Westerman’s (R-AR) behest, the full committee adopted the measure unanimously and reported it out to the House.

The legislation, once approved by Congress and signed by President Biden, will continue to affirm the COFA states’ sovereignty and deep friendship with the U.S., and ensure U.S. defense of an area of the Pacific waters

the size of the contiguous 48 U.S. states. House leadership, recognizing the immense policy importance, has included COFA in a package of spending bills that require passage by Friday to stave off a partial closure of the federal government when a temporary funding agreement is due to expire. In addition to taking the opportunity to express appreciation to Westerman for asking her to chair the COFA task force, she also thanked him for the time, effort and leadership he exercised to oversee the process.

“I was grateful that the chairman led a committee delegation to the capitals of the three COFA states to meet in person with their respective heads of government and hear firsthand of their concerns. It was important exposure for delegation members, which strengthened their understanding of these islands,” concluded the congresswoman.

The congresswoman’s other committee assignments as co-chair of the Congressional Pacific Islands Caucus, vice chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Indo-Pacific Subcommittee, and vice chairman of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs gave her three additional platforms to press for House action on the Pacific pacts.

With the speaker’s blessing, the congresswoman called the three FAS presidents and two governors Saturday to give them the good news in advance of the Sunday formal release of the details of the funding package. (PR)



Radewagen



COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-24-020

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF LUBE
OILS FOR POWER GENERATION
(CUC SAIPAN, TINIAN, ROTA)

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the supply and delivery of engine lubricating oils for CUC Power Generation facilities on Saipan, Tinian and Rota.

The IFB Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set. The IFB package consisting of the specifications and scope-of-service will be provided via email to the registered email ID. Prospective bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, in a sealed envelope marked “CUC-IFB-24-020, Supply & Delivery of Lube Oils for Power Generation” to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **March 11, 2024 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. An electronic copy should also be emailed to Marcela Tenorio via email, marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

All Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility for any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements during the Contractor’s preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, pay any cost incurred in preparing the bid under this request, procure or contract for services. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contract may be subject to the approval of CPUC and will not be effective until receipt of such approval.

All responses to this IFB should consider all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the proponent’s obligation upon award of a contract. Successful proponents must submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor’s Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on March 5, 2024** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Richard Cano, CUC Power Generation Manager via email richard.cano@cucgov.org, and Marcela Tenorio, email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in said bid, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

BETTINA G. TERLAJE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN, JR.
Purchasing Administrator



COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION



INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-24-015

A-16 SEWER LIFT STATION UPGRADE

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the construction of the A-16 Sewer Lift Station Upgrade project in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists of the installation of a new polymer pre-cast concrete wet well to replace the existing A-16 wet well; installation of OFCI submersible pumps and accessories; new aboveground valve station and appurtenances with concrete pad; installation of new bar screen to replace existing A-1 bar screen; rehabilitation of existing A-16 bar screen; installation of new gravity sewer mains and manholes; installation of H2S controls; reconnection to existing lift station force main; procurement of a portable pumping system with trailer and concrete pad; installation of temporary bypass pumping operations and dewatering; site improvements with new chain-link fence, two vehicular gates and a pedestrian gate; asphaltic concrete pavement driveways with partial compacted base course area; installation of new and replacement of existing gate valves; demolition of existing minor structures and electrical upgrade. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system. CUC requires the Project to be completed in **Two Hundred Seventy (270) calendar days** from date of award of contract.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **February 27, 2024 at 10:00 AM (CHST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “CUC-IFB-24-015, A-16 SEWER LIFT STATION UPGRADE” to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (CHST) March 14, 2024**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor’s preparation of a bid under the contract.

A Bid Guarantee of not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier’s check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidder. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers’ questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI’s Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI’s Insurance Code.

All bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 (ChST) on March 1, 2024** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email at manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Ms. Nicolette Villagomez, CUC’s Water/Wastewater Engineer - via email at nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org, and Ms. Christie L. Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Senior Administrative Technician - via email at christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

BETTINA G. TERLAJE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ., F-0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537
EMAIL: mwhtespn@yahoo.com
ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF
THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

TRIPLE CROWN LLC,) CIVIL ACTION
Plaintiff,) NO. 23-0371
)
-v-)
)
TLC ENTERTAINMENT,)
LLC AND TAKAYUKI)
NIZEKI,)
Defendants.)

SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

TO TAKAYUKI NIZEKI, Defendant:
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is served upon you hereby, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication of this Summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC, the Plaintiff’s attorney, whose address is Post Office Box 5222, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.
Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.
If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgement by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint. Dated February 22, 2024, by order of the Court.

/s/
Clerk of Court



PUBLIC NOTICE

The United States Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service (USDA-NASS), in collaborations with the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Department of Commerce, Central Statistics Division (DOC-CSD) will begin visits in mid-March 2024 to all farms on Saipan, Rota, and Tinian to conduct the CNMI 2023 Census of Agriculture data collection.

Response to the Census of Agriculture is required by Federal Law, under Title 7 USC 2204(g) Public Law 105-113 and as well as the CNMI 1990 Statistical Act Public Law 7-35.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXIV, Issue No. 47Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950**Mark Rabago** EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

More delays? Supreme Court was wrong to put off Trump immunity decision

The Supreme Court announced on Wednesday that it will consider Donald Trump's claim that as a former president he enjoys immunity from prosecution for alleged crimes connected to his efforts to overturn the 2020 election. By taking the case and scheduling oral argument for the week of April 22, the court has further complicated the timeline for a Trump trial, which a district judge originally scheduled for March 4.

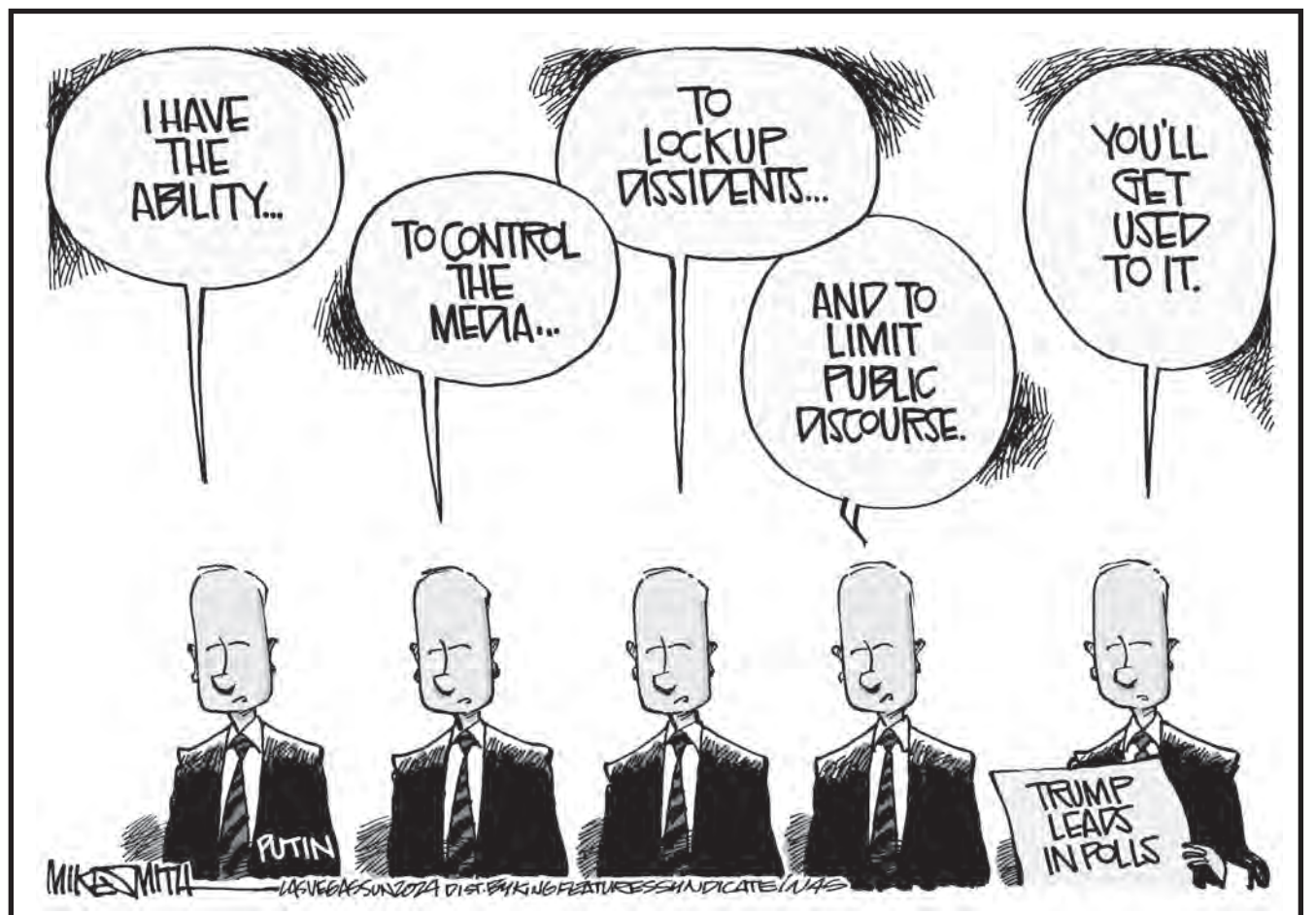
It's in the national interest that Trump face a jury as soon as possible. Special Counsel Jack Smith recognized the urgency of the situation when he asked the justices on Dec. 11, to rule in the immunity case quickly, and before the appeals court weighed in. The justices unwisely rejected that request on Dec. 22.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit heard arguments in the immunity case on Jan. 9, and on Feb. 6 handed down a long and learned decision eviscerating Trump's outlandish immunity argument. The appeals court concluded that "former President Trump has become citizen Trump, with all of the defenses of any other criminal defendant. But any executive immunity that may have protected him while he served as president no longer protects him against this prosecution."

It's understandable that the justices would want to weigh in themselves. But they should have agreed to Smith's request for expedited consideration. Having failed to do so, they should resolve to hand down their decision as soon as possible after the oral argument in April. It would be a deeply unsatisfactory outcome if the court ruled against Trump's immunity claim but did so too late to ensure that a trial would proceed—and a jury would have its say—before the November election.

Further delay by the court would give a new and ominous meaning to the axiom that justice delayed is justice denied, though in this case it would be the nation that would be denied justice.

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Without even ruling on Trump's immunity claim, the Supreme Court handed him a huge victory

Given the Supreme Court's possible responses to Donald Trump's appeal of the D.C. Circuit's denial of his claim of immunity from prosecution, the justices' decision Wednesday has to be counted as a gift to the former president. That's because the court came through for him on the most important axis: time.

The court's fairly Delphic order retains a stay on the case pending its consideration of the merits, with oral arguments scheduled for the week of April 22. Doing the math, that means the all-important election interference trial in U.S. District Judge Tanya Chutkan's Washington courtroom will not begin for at least six months or so, around late August.

At best, that means there is no more margin for error if the case is to go forward this year. And even at the earliest possible date that it could proceed, the country will be in the homestretch of a presidential campaign that the trial would substantially distort. That's a potential problem not just for Trump but also for the American people.

And of course the trial may not begin before the November election, in which a Trump victory over President Joe Biden would completely upend the legal and political landscape.

That's because the trial judge can't really abridge the amount of time that remained in the pretrial process before Trump's appeal stopped the clock. Trump would scream that the court is violating his due-process rights if Chutkan gave the president less time to prepare his defense.

And while the Supreme Court has scheduled a fairly prompt consideration of the appeal, it's far from the fastest they've ordered. Trump's team has a full three weeks before their brief on the merits is due, and the oral argument is almost two months away.

The court's consideration of this motion, moreover, was hardly warp speed for a case of this importance and exigency. The justices took 13 days to decide how they would handle the appeal. Again, fast—but I've seen faster.

In fact, the time it took had many court watchers surmising that one of the justices must be writing a dissent. But Wednesday's order was short, bland and without dissent. (That's not to say it was unanimous—just that no judge in the minority opted to write in opposition to the decision to take the case, which would have been unusual.)

On the other hand, the Supreme Court's decision does not ultimately augur a reversal of the D.C. Circuit's resounding rejection of Trump's immunity argument. My strong sense is that the justices won't uphold Trump's far-reaching and fundamentally anti-constitutional claim of a wholly immune president. The opinion of the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals—joined by Republican and Democratic appointees alike—should lay that claim to rest.

By HARRY LITMAN

Los Angeles Times

Harry Litman is the host of the "Talking Feds" podcast. @harrylitman



More likely than finding fault with the circuit court, the justices, probably beginning with Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr., decided the issue is of sufficient magnitude that they couldn't let the final decision, however persuasive, come from a lower court. Fundamental questions of executive power simply fall within the Supreme Court's job description.

One possible clue to the court's thinking is the order's formulation of the question presented: "Whether—and if so, to what extent—a former president enjoys immunity from criminal prosecution for conduct alleged to involve official acts during his tenure in office."

Throughout the case, Trump has argued that the conduct at issue fell within the outer perimeter of his official responsibilities. This depends on construing his encouragement of the Jan. 6, 2021, rioters as mere political speech.

His prospects for prevailing on that ground are negligible. In fact, several other courts have been hostile to similar arguments from Trump. For example, also on Wednesday, an Illinois court became the latest to determine that he engaged in insurrection and is therefore disqualified from the presidency under the 14th Amendment.

So even if the Supreme Court were to find some version of presidential immunity from prosecution for official acts, it wouldn't necessarily save Trump if his conduct fell outside his responsibilities.

Again, though, Trump's fortunes have to be measured by the time involved as well as the merits. And a pretrial back-and-forth over whether his conduct fell within his duties could take up even more time.

In the long run, therefore, the court's decision probably won't excuse Trump from accountability for his traitorous conduct on the merits. His outlandish claim of absolute presidential immunity will almost certainly fail, and even a recognition of limited immunity for official acts will not keep him from facing justice.

But that's in the long run. For now, Trump is likely pleased with a result that again delays justice and, if his political gamble on a return to the White House pays off, will allow him to escape it altogether.

Don't wait to stop another genocide

I've been losing sleep, feeling helpless in the face of present-day atrocities that are much like the ones committed against my ancestors.

I was born and raised in Israel to a father who survived the Holocaust and a mother who survived the Nazi blitz of London, both of them as children. Like many others of my generation, I'm named after a relative who was murdered by the Nazis—in my case, my father's youngest sister, Esty, who was killed at the age of 5 in Auschwitz. I grew up among people with numbers tattooed on their forearms.

My father was a Holocaust historian. As I grew up, there was one question that permeated everything: How could this happen? How is it possible that the whole world was watching the genocide of the Jews—and other groups—and did nothing until it was too late? By the time the Nazis were defeated, 6 million Jews had been murdered, including my father's mother and four younger siblings.

I find myself mulling this question again, now that I see my own people engaged in a genocide themselves: that of the Palestinians. How can it be? We're watching the horrors; we see thousands and thousands of women and children being slaughtered, and it keeps going on. The genocide, carried out by

bombs and tanks, starvation, dehydration, the destruction of hospitals and other infrastructure and the withholding of funds from UNRWA—the organization responsible for keeping Gaza alive—is efficient and unceasing. And it is made possible by the monetary and military support of the United States.

How can Democrats like President Joe Biden support Ukrainians in their struggle against the Russian invasion while at the same time enthusiastically supporting Israel's invasion of Gaza? Why does the United States earmark \$14 billion for Israel while so many Americans are hungry and homeless? As a dual Israeli-American citizen, I find myself both enraged and called to action.

Now, as Israel plots a ground operation in Rafah that would likely kill huge numbers of civilians, the United States is urging the country to "come up with a strong safety plan." But what does that even mean? Expelling even more Gazans further south to a new open air prison in the Sinai desert?

The United States and much of the rest of the world have seen mass mobilizations of citizens, including many Jews, who are horrified by this organized decimation of a people and demand that it stop. We've been organizing and demanding that our elected officials listen and start representing us. So far, to no avail.

By **ESTY DINUR**
Progressive Perspectives

Esty Dinur is a radio, print and online journalist. Listen to her weekly radio show every Friday at noon Central Time on www.wortfm.org. She is a member of Jewish Voice for Peace-Madison and a founder of Veterans for Peace-Madison.



Biden and his Cabinet are deaf to us as are most of our congressional supposed representatives. But there has been some success: So far, at least 70 cities across the country have passed cease-fire resolutions, and 100,000 Democrats voted "Uncommitted" in the Michigan primary elections.

As the daughter of a victim of a horrendous crime against humanity, I refuse to look away from another such crime. I demand that both my governments, Israel and the United States, immediately stop this mass murder and start rebuilding Gaza, using the \$14 billion for that purpose. It will take a lot to atone for the horrors of the past five months. The sooner it starts the better.

Rational Republican leaders could keep quiet instead of endorsing Trump. Why won't they?

The Republican Party's transformation into an anti-government populist movement has been a bottom-up phenomenon: Conservative voters, radicalized by right-wing radio, Fox News, social media and opportunistic demagogues, rose up for their tea party takeover. Then the biggest demagogue of all, Donald Trump, harnessed those voters to make the party his own.

That merger of man and movement has been Trump's superpower for nearly a decade. Party leaders, fearful of his sway over voters, turned invertebrate, groveled at his bidding and let Trump indulge his worst impulses unchecked.

The party's "boneless wonders" made Trump's election possible in 2016. They resurrected him after his post-Jan. 6 decline. And now, it seems, their reemergence to assist in his 2024 comeback is near-complete.

I was reminded of the invective "boneless wonder"—Winston Churchill's description of an opposition-party British prime minister a century ago, based on a childhood memory of a circus freak—by recent news about the Senate's two Republican leaders, who have been among the few party holdouts when it comes to endorsing Trump for reelection.

The Republican whip, South Dakota Sen. John Thune, caved on Saturday, after Trump won the fourth straight nominating contest, in South Carolina. Then the New York Times reported that Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, who announced Wednesday that he will step down as leader this year, might be about to endorse him as well. McConnell report-

edly hasn't spoken to Trump since 2020.

That's depressing. Certainly neither McConnell nor Thune has been a profile in courage regarding Trump. In February 2021, McConnell engineered the former president's Senate acquittal after his House impeachment for inciting the Jan. 6 insurrection. Both men have mostly tried to ignore Trump. But at least they haven't been echoing his lies or excusing them, like former detractors-turned-Senate sycophants Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, Ohio's J.D. Vance, Texas' Ted Cruz, Florida's Marco Rubio and South Carolina's Tim Scott.

Why not remain silent? No one should be fooled that either McConnell or Thune thinks Trump is fit to be president.

Republican boneless wonders crowd the Senate, the House and state capitols nationwide, deaf to Trump's divisiveness, silent about his indecency and without principles left to stand on. We'll never know what might have been had a phalanx of Liz Cheney, Adam Kinzingers and Mitt Romneys formed to counter Trumpism.

I'd celebrate Nikki Haley for her decision to stay in a losing race against Trump and for her belated truth-telling about why he's unfit, except that I'm sure she'll endorse him eventually.

I am not alone in channeling Churchill when considering the spineless politicians of the Trump era. At its start, early in the Republicans' contest for the 2016 nomination, conservative columnist George Will noted that Trump's rivals, "disoriented by their fear and envy of him, are making the GOP seem like the party of boneless wonders." And this week, conservative pun-

By **JACKIE CALMES**
Los Angeles Times

Jackie Calmes is an opinion columnist for the Los Angeles Times in Washington, D.C.



dit and Never Trumper Bill Kristol similarly evoked Churchill's pejorative in a piece for the Bulwark website lamenting Thune's surrender. "The capitulation of the decent is particularly demoralizing," Kristol wrote.

I share Kristol's disappointment that the likable, pragmatic Thune, who hopes to succeed McConnell as the Senate Republican leader, endorsed Trump; both of Thune's rivals for the leadership had already done so. As for McConnell, I'm outraged that he is even thinking about it, especially now.

McConnell has styled himself one of Ukraine's foremost supporters since Russia invaded two years ago, and Trump, the de facto speaker of the MAGAified House, right now is blocking Congress' approval of further aid to the desperate Ukrainians. You'd think McConnell might be considering condemning Trump, not weighing an endorsement of Vladimir Putin's admirer.

And go back three years to Feb. 13, 2021. After ensuring Trump's Senate acquittal that day for his role in the Capitol assault, McConnell delivered a speech that remains one of the most damning anti-Trump indictments ever by a Republican not named Cheney. Trump's actions, McConnell said, "were a disgraceful—disgraceful!—dereliction of duty." Trump was "practically and morally responsible" for the violence. He "seemed determined to either overturn the voters' decision or else torch our institutions on the way out."

McConnell would want that man back in power? In his speech, he characterized the Jan. 6 rioters as terrorists. Now he'd help reelect Trump, who calls them "hostages" and vows to pardon them.

McConnell decried Trump's "crescendo" of conspiracies, his "thundering" about a stolen election to whip up his supporters. Has McConnell watched a MAGA rally lately? Trump is still thundering about that Big Lie and warning his faithful that Democrats—"thugs and tyrants and fascists, scoundrels and rogues"—will steal the next election unless they're stopped. Does McConnell think political violence is a thing of the past?

At the end of that Senate speech, McConnell assured Americans that the former president was "still liable for everything he did while he was in office" in our civil and criminal justice systems. "He is not immune," the senator said. Now Trump has gone all the way to the Supreme Court to argue otherwise.

The justices aren't expected to side with him, but Trump has another plan for escaping accountability—by getting reelected and making his cases disappear. Which is exactly what backing from the likes of Thune and McConnell will help to happen.

For a political operator like McConnell to endorse Trump wouldn't be a huge surprise. Still, you'd think a legacy-minded octogenarian would not want to seal his reputation as a boneless wonder.

Red Caesarism: Ballot Booth Botulism

LITERARY NOOK
By **JOEY CONNOLLY**
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey aka Pepe Batbon Connolly is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. He is a sonnet practitioner who enjoys stargazing.



Victory Victuals ? Autocratic Rituals

What are the stakes? And what are the mistakes?
Trump Vodka? which he says he doesn't drink?
Or those freezer burned frozen old Trump steaks?
Soggy Trump Tower salads in the kitchen sinks?
Or President Joe Biden slowly biding his time?
With a sustainable fish dinner, lemon, and wine?

A somewhat blind old man and GOP elephant
Touching sides, legs, tail, trunk, and bigly ear
The blind man probably already triumphant
We'll see who is the U.S. President next year.

More than \$85K interest on his fines per day

Trump's dyed yellow hair clearly falling out
Banks and bond loan officers are quiet today
45 not enough cash for the 'Bigly' bail out.
So who will ultimately win and who will lose?
MAGA voters all know who they will choose.

Trump Autocracy: Anti Democracy

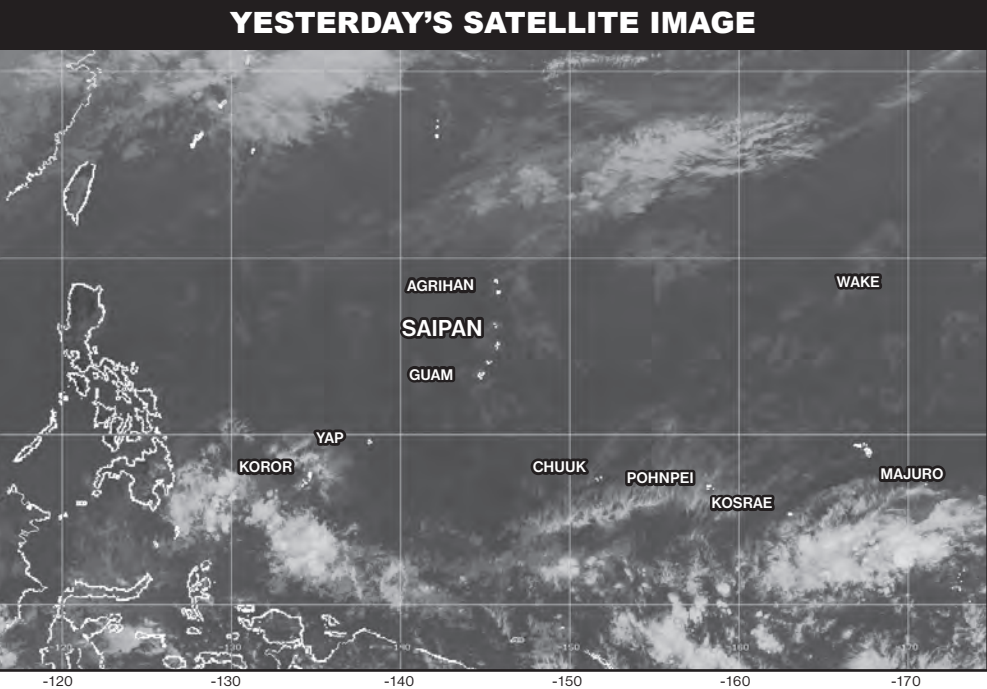
I have lied about me and myself all the time
Since I came out from my mother's womb
Sleepy Joe Biden somehow got legally elected
Despite my denial, temper tantrums, my gloom
He's older than me! He doesn't dye his hair!
Let's call him Sleepy Joe I repeatedly said
I declared election fraud, stolen votes unfair
"God Bless Our Troops" President Biden said

Soldiers who got caught, "are suckers and losers"
MAGA voters can not be pickers and choosers
Vlad Putin's prison penalties make good sense
Imprisonment and death for all Russian dissidents
My grift, tax fraud, and cheating are no mystery
My criminality is written in 21st century history.

The above is a Petrarchan sonnet. Francesco Petrarca, from Tuscany, Italy (b.1304 - d 1374) developed this sonnet form with an octave and sestet division.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
Partly cloudy. Isolated light showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.		Partly cloudy. Isolated light showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.		Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.		Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.		Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.	
87	75°	87	75°	87	75°	87	75°	87	75°



PICTURE TIME: 5:22 AM TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Mainly gentle trade winds are reported across the forecast zones. Satellite shows patchy low etage clouds over the region, and apparently there a few spotty showers. A weak shear line remains over the far northern CNMI and its very slow moving and not doing much. Saipan/Tanapag buoy shows combined seas 5 to 6 feet from the northeast but a small component from the northwest.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: <https://www.weather.gov/gum/>

MICRONESIA			▲▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	85° / 77°	
Palau	Cloudy	85° / 76°	
Yap	Partly Cloudy	85° / 78°	
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	85° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	85° / 79°	
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	85° / 79°	
Majuro	Cloudy	84° / 79°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:30 AM	6:25 PM
Thursday	6:30 AM	6:25 PM
Friday	6:29 AM	6:26 PM
Saturday	6:28 AM	6:26 PM
Sunday	6:28 AM	6:26 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	2:45 AM	2:06 PM	-
Thursday	3:44 AM	3:11 PM	-
Friday	4:38 AM	4:16 PM	-
Saturday	5:28 AM	5:20 PM	-
Sunday	6:15 AM	6:21 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼ °F
Auckland	Fair/Wind	69° / 58°	
Beijing	Wintry Mix	45° / 32°	
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	76° / 68°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	76° / 66°	
London	Showers	48° / 39°	
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	65° / 52°	
Manila	Sunny	91° / 77°	
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	82° / 61°	
Miami	Mostly Sunny	84° / 72°	
New York	Cloudy	59° / 42°	
Osaka	Rain	57° / 44°	
Paris	Windy	54° / 41°	
Busan	Partly Cloudy	61° / 48°	
Rome	Partly Cloudy	64° / 52°	
Salem	Cloudy	56° / 34°	
San Francisco	Mostly Cloudy	55° / 46°	
Seoul	Cloudy	52° / 39°	
Tokyo	Rain Shower	58° / 43°	
Washington, DC	Rain	68° / 51°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
5:53 AM	High Tide	1.60	
10:32 AM	Low Tide	1.30	
2:56 PM	High Tide	1.61	
10:51 PM	Low Tide	-0.32	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 1, 2024

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	7:05AM	9:45AM	1, 3, 5	UA825	9:25PM	2:00AM+1	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	UA189	00:40AM	6:30AM	3, 6
UA193	7:50PM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Palau	PR110	10:05PM	3:55AM+1	Daily
UA183	7:55PM	9:50PM	Daily	UA192	10:40PM	6:30AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
				UA184	10:55PM	4:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
7C3403/2305	4:40AM	10:20PM	Daily	UA189/174	00:40AM	8:45AM+1	3, 6 via Guam
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:50PM	Daily via Guam	UA192/174	10:40PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	UA184/174	10:55PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
				7C2306/3406	11:15PM	3:30PM+1	Daily
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	2:15AM	6:10AM	Daily	7C3462	08:00AM	1:30PM	Daily Feb 7-16 only
7C3403	4:40AM	8:35AM	Daily	7C3406	10:10AM	3:30PM	Daily
7C3405	4:35PM	8:25PM	Daily	TW307	7:45PM	1:15AM+1	Daily
				7C3404	10:15PM	3:35AM+1	Daily

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday
GUAM TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday
SAIPAN TO TINIAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily
TINIAN TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

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USCG conducts combined patrol with Marshallese partners under Operation Blue Pacific

By CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER
SARA MUIR
U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector
Guam

MAJURO, Republic of the Marshall Islands—Following efforts with Kiribati partners, the USCGC *Oliver Henry* (WPC 1140) crew recently concluded the next leg of their expeditionary patrol from Feb. 20 to 27, 2024, spending time in Majuro, Wotje Atoll, and the Exclusive Economic Zone of the Republic of the Marshall Islands working with partners, underscoring commitment to maritime security and international cooperation regionally.

Underway in support of Operation Blue Pacific, the cutter crew showcased the effectiveness of the U.S. and RMI maritime bilateral agreement, conducting a shared patrol with shipriders emphasizing collaborative efforts in maritime safety, security, and stewardship in terms of resource protection.

“The shared efforts in patrolling, enforcing maritime regulations, and sharing expertise contribute to maintaining a secure and sustainable maritime environment,” said Lt. Ray Cerrato, commanding officer of the USCGC *Oliver Henry*. “The U.S. and RMI shiprider operations under the bilateral agreement serve as a model for collaborative efforts between nations, fostering a shared commitment to protecting marine resources and building strong partnerships.”

During the patrol, *Oliver Henry*’s crew traveled

throughout the RMI EEZ with two officers from the RMI maritime police force, the Sea Patrol, who provided a combined presence and conducted three successful maritime law enforcement boardings and three additional observation reports. The combined boarding team found all fishing vessel crews to be operating in compliance with international and Marshallese regulations.

The crew assisted the Marshallese government with transporting 4,000 lbs of essential grocery supplies from Majuro to Wotje Atoll, RMI. The visit to Wotje Atoll was warmly welcomed by Mayor Rithen Lajar, demonstrating the enduring partnership between the United States and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

“We were incredibly humbled by our welcome from Mayor Rithen Lajar to visit Wotje Atoll,” said Cerrato. “His willingness to accept our cutter and crew into his home and to entrust us with the chance to bring in much-needed supplies to the atoll was incredibly heartwarming. Our crew couldn’t have been more excited and willing to support the mayor’s request for assistance.”

Additionally, *Oliver Henry* and RMI Sea Patrol conducted a collaborative session on damage control equipment setup and small boat launch and recovery, strengthening capabilities and fostering camaraderie between the two agencies. In further engagement activities, the crew en-

joyed a friendly basketball game with Sea Patrol, won by Sea Patrol, and a BBQ with Royal Australian Navy partners, further strengthening bonds between the participating entities.

“The time patrolling within the RMI EEZ was incredibly effective,” said Cerrato. “We look forward to any chance to work with RMI and Sea Patrol during future engagements. We must brush up on our basketball skills before the next match.”

The success of the cut-

ter crew’s mission reflects a commitment to the region’s well-being and reinforces the significance of such missions in maintaining a stable and secure maritime domain. Support from the staff of the U.S. Embassy in Majuro, as well as Royal Australian Navy and Marshallese Sea Patrol partners, was instrumental in the success of the patrol effort.

About the US Coast Guard in the Pacific
The U.S. Coast Guard 14th District, based out of Hono-

lulu, Hawaii, and U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam, continue to foster enduring partnerships with regional allies through Operation Blue Pacific, an overarching multi-mission Coast Guard endeavor to promote security, safety, sovereignty, and economic prosperity in Oceania. With humanitarian Service at its core, the U.S. Coast Guard remains committed to maritime safety, security, and stewardship, solidifying its longstanding reputation in the

Pacific as a trusted partner.

About USCGC *Oliver Henry*
USCGC *Oliver Henry* (WPC 1140) is the 40th 154-foot Sentinel-class Fast Response Cutter named for Oliver T. Henry, Jr., an enlisted African American Coast Guard member first to break the color barrier of a then-segregated Service. Designed for many missions, including search and rescue, national defense, and maritime law enforcement, the *Oliver Henry* plays a significant role in safeguarding national interests and preserving good maritime governance. (*USCG*)

GCC public hearing on proposed fee increase for new auditorium

The Guam Community College will hold a public hearing regarding proposed fee increases for the new Multipurpose Auditorium (Building 300) on Tuesday, March 12, 2024 at 2:30pm at the Guam Community College

in Room 3108, Building 3000 (GCC map: <https://guamcc.edu/campusmap>). Individuals requiring special accommodations, auxiliary aids, or services should contact (671) 735-5641 ext. 5594/5597. (*GCC*)

Description	Multi-Purpose Auditorium (MPA) – Building 300	
	Current Pricing	New Pricing
<i>Duration: 4 hours</i>		
Fee for Halls 1 – 4	\$500.00	\$750.00*
Fee for Hall 1	n/a	\$250.00**
Fees for Halls 2, 3, 4	n/a	\$200.00 each***
<i>Duration: 8 hours</i>		
Fee for Halls 1-4	\$750.00	\$1,500.00*
Fee for Hall 1	n/a	\$500.00**
Fee for Halls 2, 3, 4	n/a	\$400.00 each***
<i>Daily rates</i>		
Cleaning Fee (per day)	\$75.00	\$150.00 (non-refundable)
PA system (per day)	\$25.00	\$100.00 (new system)
TV system (replacing Multi-Media Projector) (per day)	\$100.00 per unit	\$150.00 per unit
Chairs (additional) (per day)	n/a	\$1.00 each
Tables (additional) (per day)	n/a	\$1.00 each
Tables (IBM style) (per day)	n/a	\$1.50 each

*Includes up to 210 chairs and 25 standard white rectangle OR round tables
**Includes up to 100 chairs and 15 standard white rectangle OR round tables
*** Includes up to 80 chairs and 10 standard white rectangle OR round tables

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Table of Guam Community College’s proposed fee increases.



**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM,
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
Tel: (670) 664-2371 | Fax: (670) 664-2408 | Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB24-GOV/CIP-42400049**

**BUILDING 1325 REPAIRS, RENOVATION
AND IMPROVEMENTS**

SUBMISSION DATE: 10:00 AM CHST MARCH 22, 2024

Governor Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Governor David M. Apatang, through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) are soliciting sealed bids for the “*Building 1325 Repairs, Renovation and Improvements*” project in Capitol Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. This project will be funded by the 702 Covenant funding under the U.S. Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs.

The project package will be available in digital format only on **February 21, 2024** at the Capital Improvement Program Office, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan, during regular working hours or online at Vendor Self Service at selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/Vendors/VBids.

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the project site located in Capitol Hill, Saipan at **10:00 AM CHST March 7, 2024**. Bidders may request to participate via phone call or virtually five (5) days prior to the meeting scheduled. *Questions* regarding this ITB may be submitted via email to Ms. Sunny Aldan-Salas at sunny.aldan@gov.mp no later than **4:30 PM CHST March 14, 2024**. All Questions & Answers will be shared with all prospective bidders.


Bidders located outside of the CNMI must fill out and submit the Notice of Intent to Bid Form to the Acting Director of Procurement Services via email (bidintent@dof.gov.mp) no later than **10:00 AM CHST, March 22, 2024**.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS, AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.


/S/ **Arnold I. Palacios**
Governor, CNMI

/S/ **Brian S. Nicholas Jr., Acting Director**
CNMI Procurement Services



**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL



RFP NO.: DPW24-RFP No.: 42400062

SUBMISSION DATE: April 09, 2024 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

**“Hearing Officer for the Department
of Public Works, Saipan”**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.


The project package will be available on or after **March 06, 2024** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan.

There will be a **Pre-Proposal** Conference for this project on **April 22, 2024, 9:00 a.m. local time** at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **4:30 p.m. local time on April 28, 2024** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.


THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ **RAY N. YUMUL**
Secretary, DPW

/S/ **BRIEN SERS NICHOLAS JR.**
Acting Director, Division of
Procurement Services



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Board of Directors
3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building
P.O. Box 501220 CK • Saipan, MP 96950-1220
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Facsimile: (670) 235-5131



REVISED PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 et seq), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (“CUC”) Board of Directors hereby informs the general public that the Board will hold a **Special Board Meeting on Thursday, March 7, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.** The meeting will be held at the CUC Conference Room, Room 17, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building to consider the following agenda. Public attendance is welcome.

AGENDA*

I. Preliminary Matters
A. Call to Order
B. Roll Call
C. Reading of the Notice of the Agenda
D. Adoption of Agenda

II. Proposed FY 2025 Budget

III. Update on Stipulated Order Status Conferences (U.S. District Court, Civil Case No. CV-08-0051) and, Government/CHCC Receivables

III. Public Comments

IV. Executive Session ***
(Consultation with Legal Counsel)

V. Adjournment

/s/

JANICE A. TENORIO
Chairwoman, CUC Board of Directors

* All interested persons are welcome to attend, submit written and oral testimony on the above-Agenda items.
** Public Comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes.
*** Pursuant to 1 CMC §9912, the CUC Board of Directors may vote to meet at any time in executive session, in consultation with the Legal Counsel on matters deemed privileged and confidential.

TOUR GUIDE – VIP-2024-01
Saipan, CNMI

TOUR GUIDE: VIP CORPORATION SAIPAN, CNMI

Describe tour points of interest to group members, and respond to questions. Escort individuals or groups on cruises, sightseeing tours, or through places of interest such as industrial establishments, public buildings, and art galleries. Conduct educational activities for school children. Monitor visitors’ activities to ensure compliance with establishment or tour regulations and safety practices. Provide directions and other pertinent information to visitors. Greet and register visitors, and issue any required identification badges or safety devices. Distribute brochures, show audio-visual presentations, and explain establishment processes and operations at tour sites. Research various topics, including site history, environmental conditions, and clients’ skills and abilities to plan appropriate expeditions, instruction, and commentary. Select travel routes and sites to be visited based on knowledge of specific areas. Drive motor vehicles to transport visitors to establishments and tour site locations.

Minimum Requirements: High School diploma and 12 months experience required experience in communicating to Chinese Tourists..

Workplace: CHALAN PALE ARNOLD GUALO RAI VILLAGE, Saipan CNMI

To apply: Please send your resume to VIP CORPORATION., PMB A-4 Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950 or e-mail to vip.corp.sp@gmail.com **Job Number – VIP-2024-01**

Business

China sets 5% growth target

BEIJING (AP)—China's official growth target for this year is around 5%, Premier Li Qiang said Tuesday in an annual report on the government's plans and performance that prioritized both security and the economy.

Li said the government would continue with a "pro-active fiscal policy and prudent monetary policy," suggesting no major change in the leadership's approach to pursuing what it calls "high quality" development.

The ruling Communist Party has been emphasizing the need to raise consumer spending to help drive the economy. But the consumer-led recovery it was counting on after anti-pandemic controls ended in late 2022 faltered midway through last year.

China's real estate market is in crisis after many developers defaulted on their debts following a crackdown on excess borrowing. Falling housing prices and worries over jobs have left many families either reluctant or unable to spend more.

Li said the government plans to issue 1 trillion yuan (about \$139 billion) in "ultra-long special treasury bonds" in 2024 and over each of the coming several years—a long hoped-for extra promise of government spending to help support flagging growth.

The government also plans to provide support for local governments facing "economic difficulty," he said, suggesting that Beijing will limit damage from debts of cash strapped cities and regions that have been rising sharply.

Li also said China plans to spend 1.67 trillion yuan (\$231 billion) on defense this year—a rise of 7.2% that matches the pace of increase in 2023.

Last year, China's economy grew at a 5.2% pace, but that was after a very slow 3% annual growth rate in 2022, when the country was enduring the worst disruptions from the COVID-19 pandemic, when many millions of people spent weeks in quarantine and businesses were ordered to close.

Li said the leadership would strive to improve its handling of policies and local authorities should follow suit, avoiding measures that contradict or hinder progress.

"Making progress is our goal and it is also what motivates us," he said, adding that stability was paramount, "the basis for everything we do."

"We should communicate policies to the public in a well-targeted way to create a stable, transparent and predictable policy environment," Li said in a speech on government plans before the ceremonial National People's Congress in the Great Hall of the People.

He said policies should be more targeted and effective and reflect "the expectations of enterprises and the people when deciding on work and policy priorities."

Li was addressing the nearly 3,000 delegates of the National People's Congress and about 2,000 members of a parallel advisory body in Beijing's majestic Great Hall of the People, adjacent to Tiananmen Square.

China's most powerful leader in decades, Xi Jinping, heads the party and has installed loyalists like Li in top posts to strengthen the party's control over the economy and society. Xi, 70, is in his third five-year term as party general secretary and may hold that post for life.

The meetings of the national congress run for about a week and are China's biggest political events of the year. The congress only endorses policies already set by top leaders, but it provides a platform to showcase the party's accomplishments and to build support for its aims.

Li said the government would defuse risks in the real estate market and manage debts that have built up in the property market and also in local governments whose finances have been strained by high spending on anti-virus measures and lower tax revenues due to the downturn in land right sales.

The government plans a "new development model" for the housing market, he said, including building government-subsidized housing. That appeared to confirm reports that authorities plan to use public funds to buy up some of China's legions of unoccupied apartments and turn them into affordable housing.

Economists have said such an approach, although potentially costly, would relieve pressure on financially troubled property developers, help families afford housing that is still financially beyond their reach and help encourage more consumer spending.

review the findings. "We are in communication with Boeing and the FAA on appropriate corrective actions," he said. Asked for comment, a Boeing spokesman referred to a statement last week in which CEO David Calhoun said the company now has a "clear picture of what needs to be done" and is "totally committed to meeting this challenge." (AP)

Apple gets fined nearly \$2B by EU for hindering music streaming competition

LONDON (AP)—The European Union leveled its first antitrust penalty against Apple on Monday, fining the U.S. tech giant nearly \$2 billion for unfairly favoring its own music streaming service by forbidding rivals like Spotify from telling users how they could pay for cheaper subscriptions outside of iPhone apps. Apple muzzled stream-

ing services from telling users about payment options available through their websites, which would avoid the 30% fee charged when people pay through apps downloaded with the iOS App Store, said the European Commission, the 27-nation bloc's executive arm and top antitrust enforcer. "This is illegal. And it has impacted millions of European consumers who were not able to make a free choice as to where, how and at what price to buy music streaming subscriptions," Margrethe Vestager, the EU's competition commissioner, said at a news conference in Brussels. Apple—which contests the decision—behaved this way for a decade, resulting in "millions of people who have paid two, three euros more per month for their music streaming service than they would otherwise have had to pay," she said.

Nation

High Court restores Trump to ballot



Republican presidential candidate former President Donald Trump arrives at a campaign rally, March 2, 2024, in Richmond, Va.

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Supreme Court on Monday unanimously restored Donald Trump to 2024 presidential primary ballots, rejecting state attempts to ban him over Capitol attack

» Rejects state attempts to ban him over Capitol attack

nomination, off the ballot because of his attempts to undo his loss in the 2020 election

The justices ruled a day before the Super Tuesday primaries that states cannot invoke a post-Civil War constitutional provision to keep presidential candidates from appearing on ballots. That power resides with Congress, the court wrote in an unsigned opinion.

Trump posted on his social media network shortly after the decision was released: "BIG WIN FOR AMERICA!!!"

The outcome ends efforts in Colorado, Illinois, Maine and elsewhere to kick Trump, the front-runner for his party's

to Democrat Joe Biden, culminating in the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol.

Colorado Secretary of State Jena Griswold expressed disappointment in the court's decision as she acknowledged that "Donald Trump is an eligible candidate on Colorado's 2024 Presidential Primary."

Trump's case was the first at the Supreme Court dealing with a provision of the 14th Amendment that was adopted after the Civil War to prevent former officeholders who "engaged in insurrection" from holding office again.

Colorado's Supreme Court, in a first-of-its-kind ruling, had decided that the provision, Section 3, could be applied to Trump, who that court found incited the Capitol attack. No court before

had applied Section 3 to a presidential candidate.

The justices sidestepped the politically fraught issue of insurrection in their opinions Monday, but some Trump critics pointed to the silence on that topic as a victory of sorts because the court failed to absolve him of responsibility for the Capitol riot.

The court held that states may bar candidates from state office. "But States have no power under the Constitution to enforce Section 3 with respect to federal offices, especially the Presidency," the court wrote.

While all nine justices agreed that Trump should be on the ballot, there was sharp disagreement from the three liberal members of the court and a milder disagreement from conservative Justice Amy Coney Barrett that their colleagues went too far in determining what Congress must do to disqualify someone from federal office.

Falls from wall at US-Mexico border injure 11, including 10 who were taken to hospital

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Eleven people were hurt in a single day after trying to climb over a wall that separates Mexico and the United States and falling on the San Diego side, the latest such injuries since the wall was heightened to deter illegal crossings.

Ten people ranging in age from 18 to the mid-40s were taken to the hospital with mild to moderate injuries, according to the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department. The other person injured wasn't hospitalized.

The department said U.S. Customs and Border Protection alerted it just after 4

p.m. on Saturday.

Four of the injured were taken to Scripps Mercy Hospital, including three people who were traveling with five children, all under the age of 11, Chris Van Gorder, the president of Scripps Health, told The San Diego Union-Tribune. The hospital provided child care while their parents were being treated.

Days ago, a man believed to be in his late 20s died trying to get around the border wall.

Joseph Ciacchi, a neurosurgeon at UC San Diego Health, has said he's seen a fivefold increase in trauma cases since

the height of the border wall increased under the Trump administration, which began replacing sections that ranged in height of less than 20 feet (6 meters) with 30-foot (9.1-meter) steel bollard barriers.

In 2019, UC San Diego Health treated fewer than 60 patients who had fallen from border walls. That number jumped to nearly 450 two years later.

The Mexican consulate reported 29 Mexican nationals died in 2023 from such falls while trying to cross into the San Diego region, and another 120 were hurt.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Federal safety officials say Boeing fails to meet quality-control standards in manufacturing

The Federal Aviation Administration said Monday its audit of 737 Max manufacturing at airplane-maker Boeing and its key supplier turned up "multiple instances" of them failing to make sure manufacturing met quality standards. The FAA said that it found "non-compliance issues" with Boeing's manufacturing-process control and parts handling and storage. It did not provide details. The FAA said it gave a summary of findings from its six-week audit to Boeing and supplier Spirit AeroSystems, but it did not make the summary public. A spokeswoman said the FAA can't release details because its investigation of Boeing is continuing. Spirit spokesman Joe Buccino said the company welcomed the FAA audit and will

World

UN says 'reasonable grounds' to believe Hamas committed sexual violence on Oct. 7

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The U.N. envoy focusing on sexual violence in conflict said in a new report Monday that there are “reasonable grounds” to believe Hamas committed rape, “sexualized torture,” and other cruel and inhumane treatment of women during its surprise attack in southern Israel on Oct. 7.

There are also “reasonable grounds to believe that such violence may be ongoing,” said Pramila Patten, who visited Israel and the West Bank from Jan. 29 to Feb. 14 with a nine-member technical team.

Based on first-hand ac-

counts of released hostages, she said the team “found clear and convincing information” that some women and children during their captivity were subjected to the same conflict-related sexual violence including rape and “sexualized torture.”

The report comes nearly five months after the Oct. 7 attacks, which left about 1,200 people dead and some 250 others taken hostage. Israel’s war against Hamas has since laid waste to the Gaza Strip, killing more than 30,000 people, according to Gaza’s Health Ministry. The U.N.

says a quarter of Gaza’s 2.3 million people face starvation.

Hamas has rejected earlier allegations that its fighters committed sexual assault.

Patten stressed at a press conference launching the report that the team’s visit was not to investigate allegations of sexual violence but to gather, analyze and verify information for Secretary-General Antonio Guterres’ annual report on sexual vio-

lence in conflict and for the U.N. Security Council.

Her key recommendation is to encourage Israel to grant access to the U.N. human rights chief and the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Palestinian territories and Israel “to carry out full-fledged investigations into the alleged violations”—and she expressed hope the Security Council would do this.

Patten said the team was not

able to meet with any victims of sexual violence “despite concerted efforts to encourage them to come forward.” While the number of victims remains unknown, she said, “a small number of those who are undergoing treatment are reportedly experiencing severe mental distress and trauma.”

However, team members held 33 meetings with Israeli institutions and conducted interviews with 34 people

including survivors and witnesses of the Oct. 7 attacks, released hostages, health providers and others.

Based on the information it gathered, Patten said, “there are reasonable grounds to believe that conflict-related sexual violence occurred during the 7 October attacks in multiple locations across Gaza periphery, including rape and gang rape, in at least three locations.”

WORLD BRIEFS

Germany, Russia spar over leaked audio on missiles for Ukraine

BERLIN (AP)—The German government on Monday vehemently rejected allegations that Russia’s leak of a conversation by high-ranking German military officers was an indication that Berlin was preparing for war against Russia. At the same time, the government sought to contain the domestic fallout from the leak and promised a quick investigation into how a conversation by top German military personnel could be intercepted and published. “It is absolutely clear that such claims that this conversation would prove, that Germany is preparing a war against Russia, that this is absurdly infamous Russian propaganda,” a spokesman for German Chancellor Olaf Scholz told reporters in Berlin. Government spokesman Wolfgang Buechner said the leak was part of Russia’s “information war” against the West, and that the aim was to create discord within Germany. The 38-minute recording features military officers discussing in German how Taurus long-range cruise missiles could be used by Kyiv against invading Russian forces.

Gangs in Haiti try to seize control of main airport in newest attack on key government sites

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—Heavily armed gangs tried to seize control of Haiti’s main international airport on Monday, exchanging gunfire with police and soldiers in the latest attack on key government sites in an explosion of violence that includes a mass escape from the country’s two biggest prisons. The Toussaint Louverture International Airport was closed when the attack occurred, with no planes

operating and no passengers on site. Associated Press journalists saw an armored truck on the tarmac shooting at gangs to try and prevent them from entering airport grounds as scores of employees and other workers fled from whizzing bullets. It wasn’t immediately clear as of late Monday whether the attack, which was the biggest one in Haiti’s history involving the airport, was successful. Last week, the airport was struck briefly by bullets amid ongoing gang attacks, but gangs did not enter the airport nor seize control of it.

France becomes only country to explicitly guarantee abortion as a constitutional right

PARIS (AP)—French lawmakers on Monday overwhelmingly approved a bill to enshrine abortion rights in France’s constitution, making it the only country to explicitly guarantee a woman’s right to voluntarily terminate a pregnancy. The historic move was proposed by President Emmanuel Macron as a way to prevent the kind of rollback of abortion rights seen in the United States in recent years, and the vote during a special joint session of France’s parliament drew a long standing ovation among lawmakers. The measure was approved in a 780-72 vote in the Palace of Versailles. Abortion enjoys wide support in France across most of the political spectrum, and has been legal since 1975. Many female legislators in the hall smiled broadly as they cheered. While a small group of protesters stood outside the joint session, there were jubilant scenes of celebrations all over France as women’s rights activists hailed the measure promised by Macron within hours of the Dobbs ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2022.

In Loving Memory Of

† KEIKO KAMATA

(Kinpachi Mama-san)

March 17, 1933 – March 01, 2024

In her new life, she now joins her:

Husband : Yoshio Kamata
Son : Jun Kamata

She is survived by:
Daughter : Misako Kamata
Extended Family: Kinpachi Restaurant Staff and family, Saipan Awaodori Team

A good heart has stopped beating, but a heart that has touched so many lives can’t help but live on in those it loved.
One of the funniest people we’ve ever had, Kinpachi Mama-san as everybody called her, was a pleasure to know and spend time with.
She is a wonderful person, a Mother to everyone, thoughtful and compassionate.
In life, Kinpachi Mama-san lived a joyful life, she enjoyed eating outside with her employees whom she treats as her children on weekends and loved get together occasions.
It is with heavy hearts we acknowledge her passing, but we know she would want us to live on.
A life so beautifully lived deserves to be beautifully remembered.

Please join us at:

Visitation/Viewing: Borja Funeral Home
March 08, 2024
8:00am-11:00am

Cremation will follow – her ashes will be brought back to Japan to be together with her loved ones.

Please note that Kinpachi Restaurant will be closed on March 08, 2024.

Your thoughts, presence and prayers are sincerely appreciated.

Thank You Very Much
Domo Arigato Gozaimasu
Si Yu’us Ma’ase

Misako Kamata & Kinpachi Restaurant Family

Special Appreciation: Willie Matsumoto for unending support and assistance extended to us.

Good Housekeeping

Home is where the heart is and now is a wonderful time to take advantage of opportunities to do quick, easy, at-home projects that may help to create order and calm. Organization tops the list as does creating environments that are calm and soothing.

Looking for some projects to do in your spare time? Here are some projects to help get you started.

Start in the kitchen. The kitchen is the heart of the house and where people spend a large amount of time. From organizing cupboards and shelves to pantries, refrigerators and drawers, organizing these areas can lead to a greater sense of calm.

Create an inviting home office. If possible, place your workspace or desk next to a window. Natural light goes a long way in fostering creativity and enhancing your work mood.

Prepare for warm weather. Warm weather is in place in many parts of the country and just around the corner in



The kitchen is the heart of the home.

HANDOUT/TNS

Quick and easy projects

By CATHY HOBBS
Tribune News Service



A kids room that is sunny and bright.

HANDOUT/TNS

others, so now is a good time to prep outdoor items such as furniture and grills.

Head into the bedrooms. Master bedrooms should be calm and soothing, while children's bedrooms should feel fun, festive and inviting. Regardless of your desire, some of the best ways to achieve this are through the use of color, art and texture.

Implement systems and a schedule. Tired of items or tasks always being on the back burner? Create a weekly schedule in which certain tasks are performed. For example, performing laundry duties on Monday, cleaning your home on Wednesday and planning and executing meal prep on Sunday.

Finish small repairs. Whether it is that bathroom that needs to be re-caulked or that small area that needs a bit of touch up paint, taking on small repairs will lead to a more finished home.

Change light bulbs. Switching from lower wattage bulbs to those with higher wattage is an easy, quick and



HANDOUT/TNS

An organized closet helps to create order.



HANDOUT/TNS

An appealing and welcoming home office.



HANDOUT/TNS

Organized kitchen shelves helps to make items easier to find.

affordable fix.

Perform routine maintenance tasks such as checking for leaks or minor damage around your home. Additionally, check major appliances and systems that power your home.

Pack and purge. Now is

the perfect time to get rid of any and all excess.

Evaluate and create a game plan. Sometimes the best road to complete all of the items on your home "to do list" is to create a plan and execute in segments.

Does my furniture need a deep clean?

By PAUL F. P. POGUE
Ask Angi

Unless someone—we're looking at you, kids and pets—has spilled something potentially stain-causing on a couch or chair, we don't often give a lot of thought to upholstery cleaning.

But regular cleaning is both preventative maintenance and a home improvement task. It helps prolong the life of furniture, maintains its appearance, removes allergens and dirt, and contributes to a healthier indoor environment. Cleaning gives your furniture a new lease on life and can make it look brand new.

Signs indicating the need for upholstery cleaning include visible stains, odors, dust accumulation, and allergy flare-ups. While a schedule isn't set in stone, regular cleaning, especially when these signs appear, helps maintain the upholstery's condition.

Hiring for upholstery cleaning

Professionals hired for upholstery cleaning will assess the fabric type, use specialized cleaning solutions and equipment to deep clean the upholstery, remove stains, and possibly apply protective treatments. Hire professional

upholstery cleaners or furniture cleaning services that specialize in this field. When hiring, ask about their experience, cleaning methods used, the scope of services, pricing structure, any guarantees and whether they use eco-friendly products. While licensing requirements usually aren't required, ensuring they have experience, insurance and expertise in handling different fabric types is crucial.

Professional upholstery cleaning tends to cost between \$100 and \$300 on average. Costs depend on factors such as the type and size of furniture, the fabric/material, and

the cleaning method used. Investing in professional services for delicate or heavily soiled upholstery might be advisable for effective cleaning.

DIY upholstery cleaning might involve using home-made solutions like vinegar or mild detergent for spot cleaning. However, for comprehensive cleaning or delicate fabrics, professional services are more effective and safe. If you DIY this job, check your warranty first. Using the incorrect cleaning technique could void your warranty.

Upholstery cleaning can be seen as both required maintenance for furniture longevity and an optional project for aesthetic upkeep. The frequency of upholstery cleaning

depends on usage, visible dirt or stains, and the fabric type. Periodic cleaning, such as annually or biennially, helps maintain upholstery quality.

Understanding fabric cleaning tags

The tags on couches and chairs can give you vital information about the best way to clean them. Here's what certain codes mean:

W: The can be cleaned with water-based products and is an easy piece of furniture for DIY upholstery cleaning.

S: This can only be cleaned with a special dry-cleaning solvent or water-free product. Water-based cleaners could damage the dye or fabric.

WS or SW: Either wa-

ter-based or dry-cleaning materials may be used. However, the fabric is probably more fragile than W types, so carefully spot test any cleaner before using it.

X: This fabric cannot be cleaned with either water or the standard solvents most upholstery cleaners use, so even pros will struggle with this unless they have experience with that particular fabric. An X fabric should not be a DIY job.

For more hiring tips, check out <https://www.angi.com/articles/how-hire-professional-upholstery-cleaner.htm>.

Tweet your home care questions with #AskingAngi and we'll try to answer them in a future column.

Life & Style

Singapore prime minister defends exclusive deal with Taylor Swift

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong on Tuesday defended an exclusive deal his city-state struck with Taylor Swift that prevents the pop star taking her current Eras Tour to anywhere else in Southeast Asia.

Swift is performing six concerts from March 2 to 9 in Singapore under an exclusive deal that has been criticized by some Southeast Asian neighbors who complain they have been deprived of the tourist boom that her concerts have brought elsewhere.

Lee confirmed that Swift was provided with "certain incentives" from a government fund established to rebuild tourism industry after COVID-19 disruptions to make Singapore her only Southeast Asian destination. He did not say how much the deal cost.



In this July 10, 2019 file photograph, singer Taylor Swift performs at Amazon Music's Prime Day concert at the Hammerstein Ballroom in New

He said he did not regard the deal as unfriendly toward his neighbors in the 10-country Association of Southeast

Asian Nations. "It has turned out to be a very successful arrangement. I don't see that as being unfriendly,"

Lee said in the Australian city of Melbourne where he is attending an ASEAN leaders' summit. Lee did not directly answer

when asked if he had encountered "bad blood" among other leaders due to the deal.

Lees suggested that if Singapore hadn't struck an exclusive deal, a neighboring country might have done so.

"Sometimes one country makes a deal, sometimes another country does. I don't explicitly say 'you will come here only on condition that you'll not go to other places,'" Lee said.

Swift's representative did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Lee said he expected that Australia similarly made "mutually acceptable, sensible arrangements" with Swift

when she performed in Sydney and Melbourne before flying to Singapore. Lee said he didn't know what Australia's arrangements were.

"If that's what's needed to be done to get an outcome which is mutually beneficial and which, from Singapore's point of view, serves not just to grow the economy but also to bring in visitors and goodwill from all over the region, I don't see why not," Lee said.

"If we had not made such an arrangement, would she have come to someplace else in Southeast Asia or more places in Southeast Asia? Maybe, maybe not. These are things that she will decide," Lee added.

Q&A: Jimmy Kimmel is hosting the Oscars again

NEW YORK (AP)—Through one of the most tumultuous periods in Oscar history, through flub and slap, Jimmy Kimmel has emerged as the steady hand and abiding face of the Academy Awards.

When Kimmel hosts the 96th Oscars on Sunday, he'll be emceeing the telecast for the fourth time. Only three people—Bob Hope (19 times), Billy Crystal (nine times) and Johnny Carson (five times)—will have hosted more than him.

After Kimmel hosted the 2017 and 2018 ceremonies, he watched the Oscars experiment without a host and then with a trio of them. But after returning last year to right the ship following the Will Smith fracas, Kimmel has proven ad-

ept at a balancing act that has eluded most others.

"It's an experience that I try to remember is special," Kimmel said in a recent interview. "I just want to make sure for the people who are watching and the people who are there that we bring the proper amount of respect and also the proper amount of disrespect to the proceedings."

Kimmel spoke as he prepared for Sunday's show in between his day job at "Jimmy Kimmel Live!" That includes sifting through possible jokes, posing for photographs he'd rather not and plenty of Oscar discussion around the dinner table, too. Molly McNearney,

Kimmel's wife, is an executive producer on the broadcast.

But Kimmel is by now an old hand at a highly specialized gig. Last year's broadcast drew 18.7 million viewers, the most since 2020.

"I'm pretty calm," said Kimmel. "I can't speak for everyone else."

The conversation has been edited and condensed for clarity.

AP: Does it irk you that your avowed nemesis Matt Damon is a co-star in the film that appears to be steamrolling to best picture, "Oppenheimer"?

KIMMEL: It delights me. Matt Damon was completely left out of the Oscar festivities. He was even in the mov-



Kimmel

ie. It couldn't be more embarrassing for him. It's like if everyone in the class got invited to a birthday party, and he's the one kid who didn't.

AP: How does having two huge films like "Barbie" and "Oppenheimer" prominently nominated affect your job?

KIMMEL: It makes it 10 times easier. When nobody has seen the movies—and that has happened, including years when I've hosted—you have no point of reference to go from.

AP: You've even suggested "Barbie" partially motivated you to host this time.

KIMMEL: It was one of the big contributing factors, knowing that this movie was probably going to get nominated. I felt like I could have some good angles jumping off that. Like our promo was one of them.

Sinead O'Connor's estate asks Trump to stop playing her music at his rallies

LONDON (AP)—The estate of Sinead O'Connor on Monday asked Donald Trump not to play her music at campaign rallies, saying the late singer considered the former president a "biblical devil."

Trump has played O'Connor's biggest hit, "Nothing Compares 2 U," at events as he campaigns for the Republican presidential nomination.

In a joint statement, O'Connor's estate and her record label, Chrysalis, demanded Trump "desist from using her music immediately."

It said the Irish singer, who died last year aged 56, "lived by a fierce moral code defined by honesty, kindness, fairness and decency towards her fellow human beings."

"It was with outrage therefore that we learned that Donald Trump has been using her

iconic performance of Nothing Compares 2 U at his political rallies," the statement said.

"It is no exaggeration to say that Sinead would have been disgusted, hurt and insulted to have her work misrepresented in this way by someone who she herself referred to as a 'biblical devil.' As the guardians of her legacy, we demand that Donald Trump and his associates desist from using her music immediately."

Fiery and outspoken, O'Connor was a critic of the Roman Catholic Church well before allegations of sexual abuse were widely reported, and was open about her mental health struggles.

She was found unresponsive at her London home in July and pronounced dead at the scene. A coroner ruled that she died of natural causes.

Husband pressures wife to dress more provocatively

DEAR ABBY: My husband wants me to wear more revealing clothing. I've always enjoyed dressing attractively, and have never felt behind the times or like a frump, but I do have my opinion about what is appropriate. For example, if I'm wearing leggings, I wear a long top to cover my bum. My outfits are attractive and not ultra-conservative by any means, but I'm not a crop top, low-cut, skin-tight kind of gal.

I want to be attractive to my husband, but I am growing really annoyed by his pestering me to wear things in public that make me feel like I'm oversharing. He says he's a guy and he would know if it's inappropriate. I conceded a few times, but it just felt showy and uncomfortable. Your thoughts?

STINGY WITH THE GOODS IN MAINE

DEAR STINGY: My thought is: Do nothing that makes you feel self-conscious. Your husband may be a "guy" and think he knows what is appropriate attire, but the "bottom" line is that YOU must be comfortable and not feel embarrassed by what you are showing when you are out in public.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My wife has immersed herself in politics to the extreme. She believes the other side is wrong no matter what. We are in the same political party, but I don't paint as

broad a brush as she does on various issues. I try to change the subject if politics arises. I try to keep an open mind until I get all the facts, whereas she listens to nothing that could be positive about the other side. You guessed it—our discussions always turn into fights and anger with each other. Any suggestions?

TIRED OF TALKING POLITICS

DEAR TIRED: In the interest of saving your marriage, because talking about politics causes fights and lingering anger, agree to defer listening to news broadcasts together and engaging in those conversations until after the next election.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My daughter is being married. My wife is demanding that I tell her that my stepdaughter, "Gia" (my wife's only daughter), must take part in the wedding. Gia, who is several years younger, is self-absorbed and has made no effort to be close to her older siblings. My wife has indulged and catered to Gia's every whim since she was a little girl.

My daughter wants a short ceremony, and she doesn't want her stepsister to have a role. She has chosen her close friends since high school to be her bridesmaids. My wife thinks it's my daughter's "duty" to include Gia in her wedding. Is my wife right?

EXASPERATED HUSBAND

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR HUSBAND: No rule of etiquette requires your current wife's self-centered daughter to play a role in your daughter's wedding. If you are arm-twisted into allowing your wife to insert Gia into the wedding as more than a guest, have her stand by the guest register to ensure everyone signs in. That way she'll be away from the altar and out of the picture.

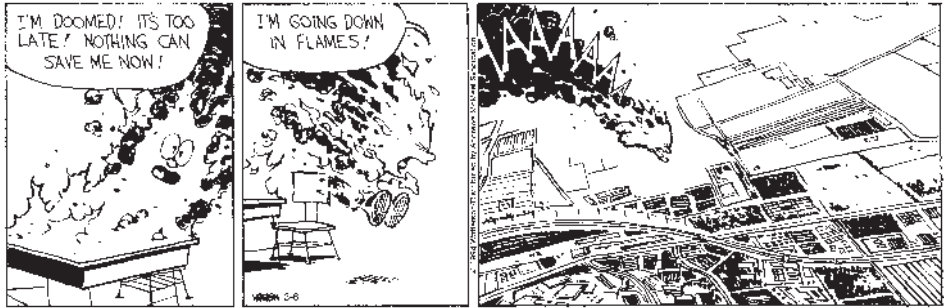
■■■

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



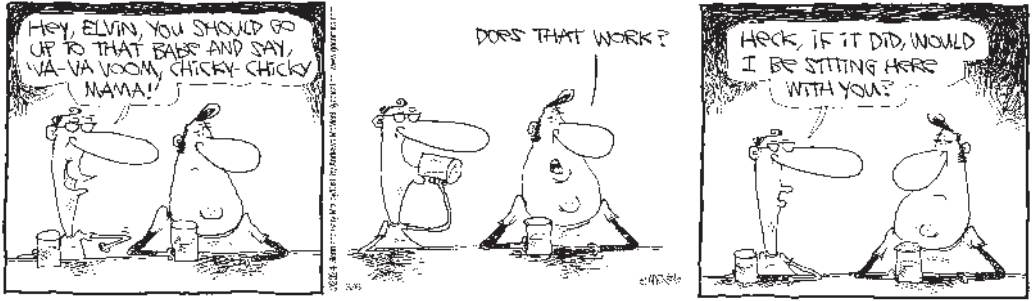
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Stinger

5 "Terri!"

8 Crime lab item

12 Smoothie berry

13 GI's address

14 Swiss river

15 "Don't worry about me"

17 Radius neighbor

18 Stokes

19 Knocked down

21 Greek vowels

24 Old Oldsmobile

25 Witticism

28 NYC gallery

30 Born as

33 Blue

34 Wine grape

35 Cave flier

36 "A Chorus Line" song

37 Tennis score

38 Memory unit

39 Egyptian cobra

41 Novelist Caleb

43 Bacon pieces

46 La Scala city

50 Really, really

51 Waits

54 Hindu title of respect

55 Singer

56 Kaplan who played Kotler

57 River of Hades

58 Erie Canal

59 Coup d'—

2 Rights advocacy org.

3 Red-tag event

4 Pal of Pooh

5 Blubber

6 NYPD alert

7 "Cheers" barman

8 Chef's creation

9 Dionne Warwick hit song

10 "Alfred" composer

11 Rosary unit

16 Superlative suffix

20 Part of Q.E.D.

22 During

23 Boom type

25 "Gigli" actress, to fans

26 A billion years

27 Has total faith in

29 "— Lisa"

31 "Mangia!"

32 Paris summer

34 Shakespeare producer

38 Span

40 Crazy Horse, for one

42 LBJ's successor

43 Weeps

44 Yonder thing

45 Bygone fliers

47 Aspiring atty.'s exam

48 "Waterloo" group

49 Russian refusal

52 Herbal brew

53 Rocker Rose

Solution time: 23 mins.

Last Friday's Answer

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Shauquille O'Neal, 52; Connie Britton, 57; D.L. Hughley, 61; Rob Reiner, 77.

Happy Birthday: Test your ideas and move forward with confidence. Change begins with you this year, so don't procrastinate or wait for someone else to steal your idea. Dig in and work toward your goal. You'll face your fear of failure, and if you rise above and give yourself a chance to flourish, the outcome will exceed your expectations. Live life your way. Your numbers are 9, 17, 22, 28, 34, 40, 47.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Refuse to let emotions stand in your way. Actions speak louder than words, and what you do will positively impact what you achieve. When in doubt, start small. Don't let outsiders talk you into something you don't need to reach your goal.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Evaluate situations, offers and questions before agreeing to participate. Be honest about your feelings and the outcome you expect to achieve before you break ground. Refuse to let conflict turn into anger. Be prepared to go it alone if necessary.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Tiptoe through sensitive situations. Gathering and verifying information before you get into a debate is best. Know your objective and prepare meticulously, and you will conquer any challenge that comes your way. Personal improvements, fitness and a trendy new look are favored.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Stick to a budget, and you'll have nothing to lose. Turn your ideas into a reality. Go to the

experts for advice, and it will encourage you to expand your skills to meet your needs. Think outside the box.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Having choices will confuse you. Do the legwork required to understand the ramifications before making a decision that can alter your life. Reach out to someone you can rely on to tell you the truth, and you will get a broader perspective regarding the possibilities.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Stop procrastinating. Be the one to make the first move, embrace life and take responsibility for your happiness. Don't fear the unknown or change when learning something new is an option. Let go of anger and regret.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Make changes at home that add to your comfort and convenience. Liven up your routine by incorporating healthy, fun activities that get you up and moving and encourage improved health and fitness. Personal gain, love and a new look are favored.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Let your imagination run wild, and put your energy into something you feel passionate about. Positive change will transpire. Opportunity is available, but you must let go of the past to take advantage of what's ahead.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Your outgoing nature will work against you if you are too generous with your time and suggestions. Someone will quickly take advantage of you by using your ideas to beat you at your own game. Don't trust anyone who strokes your ego.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Listen to reason, but don't give up on your dreams. Adjust what's out of reach and replace it with something else. Adaptability is where the magic begins. Think of possibilities and an outcome worth waiting for. Trust your instincts.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Be secretive and carefully plot your next move. You'll accomplish the most if you are low-key and focus on finishing what you start. The element of surprise will give you the edge you need to beat anyone who wants to compete with you.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You've got what it takes to forge ahead. Don't stop or doubt your ability to maneuver your way to victory. Trust and believe in yourself no matter what or who you take on. Hard work, dedication and confidence will get you where you want to go.

Birthday Baby: You are unwavering, genuine and influential. You are commanding and fortunate.

☾: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☼: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. 🔭: Focus and you'll reach your goals. 🌟: Aim high; start new projects. 🚀: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

4 5 8 6

2 8 3 9 1

6 9

7 6 2 9

5 3 1

1 2 8 7

7 9 3

5 2 4 6 8

1

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

9 5 1 8 2 4 7 6 3

3 6 7 5 1 9 4 2 8

2 8 4 3 6 7 9 5 1

1 3 5 7 8 6 2 4 9

8 7 9 4 5 2 3 1 6

6 4 2 1 9 3 5 8 7

4 1 6 9 7 5 8 3 2

7 2 3 6 4 8 1 9 5

5 9 8 2 3 1 6 7 4

Difficulty: ★★★ 3/6
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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them. Circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

BUILDING MORALE Solution: 7 letters

MENTALHEALTHIPC

APPRECIATIONORP

NRENOITACAVSEIE

SOZROFFICEIAHNN

NDITSOOBSTTSECO

OUNSLOLTIERRPPI

ICGPIONVCEGYELPT

TTOIFVINDYALRLC

AICRETEAEW@RKEA

RVEIYDEVALUESSF

BIRTILETOMORPPS

ETTFEEDBACKOYEI

LYNOISSIMMOCHAT

EORGANIZEVIRDCA

COMMUNICATIONES

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Appreciation, Boost, Celebrations, Commission, Communication, Confidence, Create, Drive, Energy, Feedback, Invest, Leadership, Life, Mental Health, Office, Organize, Peace, Perks, Personnel, Positivity, Principles, Productivity, Promote, Recognize, Satisfaction, School, Spirit, Vacation, Values, Vision, Work
Yesterday's Answer: Medication
Last Friday's Answer: Computers
The NEW Wonderword Grand Millennium #1 in LARGE PRINT is now available at: www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Gobert, Conley power Timberwolves past Trail Blazers, 119-114



MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Rudy Gobert had 25 points and 16 rebounds for his 43rd double-double of the season, Michael Conley added 19 points and seven assists, and the Minnesota Timberwolves completed a four-game season sweep of Portland, beating the Trail Blazers 119-114 Monday night.

With the win, Minnesota (43-19) moved into a tie for first place in the Western Conference with Oklahoma City, which was playing the Lakers in Los Angeles later Monday. The Timberwolves are an NBA-best 30-9 against Western Conference opponents, 20-5 against teams with a less than .500 record and 23-8 at Target Center, for the league's fifth-best home record.

"It was a point of emphasis for us coming into the season," Minnesota coach Chris Finch said before the game of handling lower-ranked teams.

Karl-Anthony Towns scored 14 points, Anthony Edwards had 13, and Naz Reid added 12 points on 4-for-4 shooting from 3-point distance for Minnesota, which was playing its fifth game in seven nights and completed a seven-game homestand with a 4-3 record.

Anfernee Simons had 34 points, 14 assists and five rebounds, and Duop Reath shot 5 for 6 from long distance and scored a career-high 26 points for Portland, which was playing its third game in four nights.

"We absolutely had to have this one," said Finch, whose team was coming off back-to-back losses for just the second



Portland Trail Blazers forward Kris Murray, top, defends against Minnesota Timberwolves guard Mike Conley, bottom in the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game Monday, March 4, 2024, in Minneapolis. AP

time this season.

The Timberwolves used a 17-5 run and Gobert's 10 points and seven rebounds to build a 55-48 lead at halftime. Gobert, who ranks fifth in the league in double-doubles, had a three-point play on a dunk over Portland's 7-foot-2 cen-

ter Moses Brown in the third quarter as Minnesota extended its lead to 13 points.

"I just tried to be more patient," said Gobert, who went 9 for 10 from the floor and 7 for 7 from the line. "The last few games, I felt like I wasn't being aggressive enough. ... Tonight,

(I decided) to be aggressive and be more decisive."

Portland cut its deficit to three points before Nickeil Alexander-Walker's 3-pointer made it 86-80 with 1:02 left in the third. Alexander-Walker (13 points) added a transition layup before the

third-quarter buzzer.

LAKERS 116, THUNDER 104

LOS ANGELES (AP)—D'Angelo Russell hit five 3-pointers while scoring 26 points, and Anthony Davis added 24 points and 12 rebounds in Los Angeles' victory over Oklahoma City.

LeBron James had 19 points, 11 rebounds and eight assists in the Lakers' 10th victory in 14 games. Austin Reaves added 16 points while hitting four 3s for the Lakers, who won their third straight meeting with the Western Conference-leading Thunder to take the season series.

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 20 points—ending his streak of eight consecutive 30-point games—for the Thunder, who lost for only the second time in nine games. Lu Dort and Chet Holmgren added 15 points apiece.

BUCKS 113, CLIPPERS 106

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Damian Lillard scored 41 points and Milwaukee overcame the absence of Giannis Antetokounmpo to rally past Los Angeles for their sixth straight victory.

Antetokounmpo missed just his third game of the season.

The Bucks are unbeaten since the All-Star break as they get ready to begin a four-game trip to California.

Bobby Portis scored 14 of his 28 points in the fourth quarter and finished with a season-high 16 rebounds. Patrick Beverley added 12 points and sparked the winning rally.

James Harden and Paul George scored 29 points each for the Clippers. Kawhi Leonard added 16 points.

BULLS 113, KINGS 109

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—Coby White had a career-high 37 points and DeMar DeRozan scored 19 of his 33 in the fourth quarter as Chicago rallied from 22 points down to beat Sacramento.

White added seven assists and five rebounds, and Chicago outscored Sacramento 36-18 in the fourth quarter to snap a four-game losing streak against the Kings.

Ayo Dosunmu scored 20 points and Nikola Vucevic had 10 points and 13 rebounds.

De'Aaron Fox led the Kings with 20 points and 10 assists after missing two games with a bruised left knee.

Domantas Sabonis had 18 points and 21 boards for his 43rd consecutive double-double before fouling out late in the fourth quarter.

JAZZ 127, WIZARDS 115

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—Jordan Clarkson scored a season-high 38 points, including a 12-0 run down the stretch, to boost Utah over Washington, which extended its losing streak to 15.

Collin Sexton scored 29 points and John Collins added 17 points, 15 rebounds and a career-high six blocks for Utah, who had lost eight of nine.

Clarkson made 5 of 6 shots in his game-deciding surge and now has the most 30-plus point games as a reserve in team history. He also tallied 10 rebounds and seven assists to lead the short-handed Jazz.

Jordan Poole scored 32 points, Kyle Kuzma had 23 and Tyus Jones added 21 for Washington. Kuzma passed 8,000 points in his career.

GRIZZLIES 106, NETS 102

NEW YORK (AP)—Luke Kennard scored a season-high 25 points and Memphis snapped a five-game losing streak by beating Brooklyn.

Jake LaRavia added 14 points and 10 rebounds for the Grizzlies, who outrebounded the Nets 50-33 and piled up 25 second-chance points to make up for all the offense they are missing because of injuries. Lamar Stevens chipped in 13 points.

Nic Claxton had 21 points for the Nets, who were coming off consecutive victories over Atlanta that had allowed them to pull within two games of the Hawks for 10th place in the Eastern Conference and the final spot in the play-in tournament. But leading scorer Mikal Bridges, who had 38 points in Saturday's victory, was 4 for 14 Monday and had just 14 points.

LeBron's 40,000-point club won't see anyone joining for long time. Maybe never. Here's why

By **TIM REYNOLDS**
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

Never say never. There's a slim chance that one day someone will join LeBron James in the NBA's 40,000-point club.

James crossed the 40,000-point mark on Saturday night, extending the NBA all-time scoring record that he claimed from Kareem Abdul-Jabbar last season.

James already has added about 1,700 points of distance between himself and Abdul-Jabbar's total of 38,387. It might be time to add James' NBA scoring record to the list of "records that never will be broken," like Cal Ripken's 2,632 consecutive games played in baseball, Wayne Gretzky's 2,857 points in the NHL or the UConn women's basketball team winning 111 consecutive games.

Wilt Chamberlain once averaged 50.4 points in a season in the NBA. Nobody else ever has come close to that. The highest any other player averaged in a full season was Elgin Baylor's 38.3 per game; if

someone averaged that much for an entire career, they would have had to play all 82 games for almost 13 seasons just to get to get to 40,000 points.

"Nobody will ever, ever touch it," Miami forward Kevin Love, one of James' former Cleveland teammates, said last year when James broke Abdul-Jabbar's record.

And remember, James might play another season. Or two. Or more. He easily could reach 43,000 or 44,000 by the time he's finished. That will only make the record more out of reach.

Some reasons why it's such a long shot that someone else will reach the milestone:

WHO'S NEXT?

Other than James, there are only seven active players with more than 20,000 points—meaning there are only seven players who are halfway to 40,000.

Kevin Durant is closest to James, about 12,000 points behind the all-time scoring leader. Durant's career aver-

age of 27.3 points per game is actually 0.2 points better than James' career scoring rate. But Durant—if he keeps that average—would have to play basically every game until the end of the 2028-29 season to reach the 40,000 mark.

He'd be 40 at that time. Durant playing at that age isn't completely unrealistic. The playing every game for five-plus years part probably is unrealistic; Durant hasn't appeared in all 82 games of a season since 2009-10, when he was 21.

There are three active players with higher career per-game scoring averages than James. Durant is one, Luka Doncic (28.5) and Joel Embiid (27.8) are the others.

Doncic just turned 25. A reporter asked him last week if he considered turning 25 to be a milestone birthday. "I feel like I'm 40," Doncic replied. It sure doesn't seem like Doncic is considering playing 15 more years, based on that answer.

And Embiid is roughly 28,000 points behind James.

He'd need to play 1,000 more games, give or take, to reach 40,000. Given his health history and age—Embiid turns 30 later this month—1,000 more games seems improbable at best.

WHAT WILL IT TAKE?

James got to 40,000 through the combination of excellence and longevity. Only Vince Carter played more NBA seasons than James has, and if James—as expected—comes back for Year 22 next season he'll tie that record.

Playing seemingly forever, that is what turns a tough task into darn near impossible.

There have been greater scorers, at least in terms of average. Michael Jordan and Wilt Chamberlain both averaged 30.1 points, but James already has appeared in 400-plus more games than either of those icons. Elgin Baylor averaged 27.4 points in his 14 seasons; he appeared in 846 games and would have had to play in 616 more (at that scoring average) to reach 40,000.

Jerry West averaged roughly the same in his career as James. Again, the longevity is what separates them; West

played 932 games.

WHAT ABOUT WEMBY?

All talk about things that could happen in the future should include Victor Wembanyama.

He is averaging 20.7 points per game as a rookie. James averaged 20.9 points in his rookie season. Only 20 more years and the same trajectory to go, and Wemby will be right there in the 40,000 club.

At All-Star weekend, Milwaukee guard Damian Lillard said that if he was in charge he'd add a 4-point line to the NBA floor. That would certainly help someone make a run at 40,000.

It's unlikely that such a move will happen; in fact, given how scoring has risen in recent years, it's reasonable to think that the NBA will make moves to help out defenses before it gives shooters another way to put up video-game numbers.

LAST WORD

"Records are always meant to be broken. You can never say never, of any record. ... For years, people said Kareem's record would never be broken."—James, after scoring 40,000.

Broncos inform Wilson they'll release him when new league year begins



ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP) — Two years ago, Russell Wilson exuberantly declared he intended to play a dozen years in Denver and double the trio of Lombardi Trophies in the Broncos' lobby.

General manager George Paton was equally dizzy, thrilled to send four premium draft picks and three players to Seattle for a younger, healthier version of Peyton Manning and excited to sign the Super Bowl-winning quarterback to that \$242 million extension six months later.

Acquiring Wilson turned out to be the biggest miscalculation in franchise history. He won just 11 of his 30 starts and witnessed both the coaching and quarterback carousels continue to churn in Denver, which hasn't been to the playoffs since winning Super Bowl 50 on Feb. 7, 2016.

Wilson endured his worst season under Nathaniel Hackett in 2022 and bounced back under Sean Payton in 2023 only to get benched for Jarrett Stidham for the final two games.

On Monday, the Broncos informed Wilson they'd release him next week when the new league year begins.

"We thank Russell for his contributions and dedications to our team and community while wishing him the best as he continues his career," the



Denver Broncos quarterback Russell Wilson (3) throws during the first half of an NFL football game against the Detroit Lions, Dec. 16, 2023, in Detroit.

team posted on its social media channels, adding, "We are excited to improve this offseason and will have the flexibility to get better through the draft and free agency."

The divorce will be a costly one for the Broncos, however.

They still owe Wilson his \$39 million salary for 2024 minus whatever he'd sign for with another team, which would likely be the veteran's minimum salary of \$1.21 million.

The Broncos also will take a record \$89 million hit in dead

cap charges over the next two seasons, which will crimp their roster building as they seek to end an eight-year playoff drought that's featured six head coaches and 13 starting quarterbacks since Manning retired a month after the franchise's third

Super Bowl title.

Wilson thanked Broncos fans and teammates on social media posts, and issued individual shout-outs to a few of them, including left tackle Garrett Bolles and receivers Courtland Sutton, Jerry Jeudy, Brandon Johnson

and Tim Patrick.

"Court, I'll never forget your one-handed catch in LA and your toe-tap in Buffalo. Bolles, you always wrapping your arm around me win or lose. Brandon Johnson, your relentless work ethic. Jeu, you snagging and high-pointing that ball in KC!" Wilson wrote on X (formerly Twitter).

Wilson also praised Patrick and running back Javonte Williams for their attitudes during arduous rehabs and thanked locker room attendants and other staff.

"Tough times don't last but tough people do," Wilson concluded. "God's got me. I am excited for what's next."

He signed off, "#3"

Wilson enjoyed a bounce-back year last season, throwing for 26 touchdowns with eight interceptions in 15 games.

But it wasn't good enough and Payton went with Stidham for the final two games. Stidham went 1-1 and the Broncos finished 8-9, their seventh straight losing season and their eighth in a row outside the playoffs.

Although he had maintained a Wilson return was possible, Payton hinted at an impending split at the NFL scouting combine last week when talking about Denver's long string of middling quarterbacks and suggested his job was to make sure "the next one" was the right QB to lead the Broncos back into contention.

Wilson, who had gone radio silent on social media at Payton's request a year ago, recently resumed sharing videos of his workouts and over the weekend he removed all Broncos references from his profile on X.

Wilson was acquired in 2022 from the Seattle Seahawks, where he won a Super Bowl title after the 2013 season with a win over the Broncos, for a bevy of draft picks (two first-rounders and two seconds) and players (Drew Lock, Noah Fant and Shelby Harris).

He signed a nearly quarter-billion dollar extension before playing a single down in Denver and then went 4-11 in his first season under Hackett, who was fired after 15 games.

Payton had Wilson dial back his social media presence a year ago and a focused and fit Wilson showed up to training camp 20 pounds lighter.

He went 7-8 before losing his starting job. Wilson contended the Broncos had threatened to bench him for the final nine games if he didn't push back his \$37 million injury guarantee in his contract.

He declined to adjust his contract and started seven more games before getting benched in what Payton insisted was a football move, not a financial one.

Decisions made by Caleb Williams, Marvin Harrison Jr. could impact future combines

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—The NFL scouting combine's evolution from hidden gem into the league's second-most anticipated offseason event has come with all sorts of twists.

The question is whether this year's new ones could affect future combines.

All-American receiver Marvin Harrison Jr. skipped media interviews, while Heisman Trophy-winning quarterback Caleb Williams took the highly unusual step of opting out of the medical exams—a primary reason for holding the combine each year.

Harrison and Williams are both expected to be selected in the top five of April's draft. And while their rankings are unlikely to be affected by their opt-outs, it could raise questions with teams. The Chicago Bears hold the No. 1 overall pick.

It also will force Williams to endure multiple exams.

"I'll be doing the medical stuff, just not here in Indianapolis," Williams said Friday, who like Harrison does not have an agent. "I'll be doing them at the team interviews. Thirty-two teams cannot draft me, there is only one of me, so the teams I go to for my visit, those teams will have the medicals. That's it."

There are also the potential long-term ramifications for Williams.

Teams invest significant resources into evaluating players, particularly quarterbacks, and refer to those scouting reports when considering free agent deals or trades.

Franchises without Williams' initial medical reports could be missing a key component for those future decisions—should his career not work out with whatever team drafts him.

"You want to have a thorough evaluation on all the players because you go back to those, and you look at those evaluations as those guys grow in the league and go through free agency," Bears coach Matt Eberflus said last week.

But will it become a trend? Combine organizers, team executives and coaches won't know till everyone returns to Indy next winter.

STOCK RISING

Xavier Worthy's record-breaking 4.21-second, 40-yard dash Saturday night provided the weekend's most electrifying moment.

But the former Texas star wasn't the only big winner in Indy—or even among this

crowded group of talented receivers.

Brian Thomas Jr. of LSU and Devontez Walker of North Carolina both showed their speed by running 40s in 4.33 and 4.36 seconds. Rome Odunze of Washington was impressive on the field—and during his media interviews.

National championship game quarterbacks J.J. McCarthy of Michigan and Michael Penix Jr. of Washington threw well, and offensive tackle Joe Alt of Notre Dame matched the top-10 hype.

Cornerbacks Nate Wiggins of Clemson (4.28 seconds) and Quinyon Mitchell of Toledo (4.33) had strong 40s, while former Texas defensive tackles Byron Murphy II and T'Vondre Sweat cemented their status as two of the top players at their position.

STOCK FALLING

Edge rusher Bralen Trice arrived nearly 30 pounds lighter than his playing weight at Washington, but didn't look any more athletic without the extra weight.

Receiver Troy Franklin of Oregon didn't help himself during the "gauntlet" drill by weaving near the 30-yard line rather than hugging the line

as he should have and Keon Campbell of Florida State ran the second-slowest 40 of any receiver, 4.61 seconds.

Penn State cornerback Kalen King also needs to perform better at his pro day after posting the same 4.61 as Coleman.

LEADERS AND RECORD BREAKERS

Michigan followed its title run by sending a record 18 players to the combine.

In addition to McCarthy, running back Blake Corum, receivers Cornelius Johnson and Roman Wilson and a bevy of defenders including linebacker Junior Colson and defensive tackle Kris Jenkins, the Wolverines also had six offensive linemen get invites.

"It's pretty wild, actually. You can only start five on the offensive line, right?" said Drake Nugent, one of the six. "It's just a credit to who we were as a whole room, not just the starting five but Trente Jones as the sixth man, he had to deal with that tight end role the first three quarters of the year."

INJURY WATCH

Quarterback Jordan Travis of Florida State, guard Zak Zinter of Michigan and cor-

nerback Cooper DeJean of Iowa did not work out as they recover from injuries. Running back Rasheen Ali of Marshall sat out with a ruptured biceps he suffered at the Senior Bowl.

NFL Network also reported several others were injured in Indy.

Former Penn State offensive tackle Olumuyiwa Fashanau hurt his right thigh and former Georgia offensive tackle Amarius Mims hurt his right hamstring on Sunday. Wiggins pulled out of the workouts following Friday's 40 with a bad hip flexor.

Doctors also diagnosed injuries to two players during their medical exams. Cornerback Kool-Aid McKinstry of Alabama was found to have a fractured foot and they found receiver Aini Smith of Texas A&M had a stress fracture in his left shin.

UP NEXT

With the Senior Bowl and combine now complete, scouts, coaches and team decision-makers head into a busy pro day and free agent season. Teams can officially start signing new players March 13, and the NFL draft will be held April 25-27 in Detroit.

Friends of the JKPL 5K Fun Run/Walk on April 13



Get your running and walking shoes ready for a great cause!

Celebrate School Library Month and National Library Week by signing up for the 3rd Annual Friends of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library 5K Fun Run/Walk.

The race will start at 5pm on Saturday, April 13, beginning at the Fishing Base located in Garapan, Saipan then turning around at the Quarter Master Road and returning to finish at Fishing Base.

This is an annual fundraiser sponsored by the Friends of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library in partnership with the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, Run Saipan, the CNMI Public School System, Northern Marianas Library Association, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, Office of the Governor, Saipan Mayor's Office, Department of Public Safety, Garapan Public Market, Department of Lands & Natural Resources, and community partners.

Online registration through www.raceroster.com is required. Search: joeten-kiyu or visit the www.cnmlib.com for more details. All proceeds received from the Fun Run/Walk will go to the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's 2024 Collaborative Summer Library Program for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

The fee is \$10 for participants 13 years old and above. The event will be free for children 12 years old and below. There will be no refunds. Please note, \$10 is not inclusive of the processing fee from race roster. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

This year, the Friends of the



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Top 3 men in the Friends of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library 2nd Annual 5K fun run/walk were Sildrey Veloria, center, Chong Name Lee, second right, and Paul Khang, third left.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Top 3 women Friends of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library 2nd Annual 5K fun run/walk were Megan Dame, center, Chiharu Sato, and Emi Okazaki.

library at (670) 235-7322/23.

Please enjoy the public library's free resources by visiting its website at www.cnmlib.org like/follow JKPL's Facebook page @joetenkiyupubliclibrary, Instagram @joetenkiyupubliclibrary, Tik Tok @jkpl670, Twitter @JoetenKiyu, and Youtube: joeten kiyu public library or visit its website www.cnmlib.org to see the progress and programs JKPL has worked so hard to offer for the community. For more information regarding any of JKPL's activities, contact JKPL @670-235-7322/7318.

How to assist with JKPL programs?

JKPL welcomes and encourages businesses to please consider donating Educational Tax Credit. Pursuant to NMI Public Law 15-120, the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library is able to receive cash contributions under Educational Tax Credit. Please make checks payable to: CNMI Treasury. For MUNIS payments, to the Friends of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library MUNIS Vendor ID#100404.

The JKPL hours of operation are as follows: Tuesday to Thursday from 10am to 6pm, Friday from 1:30pm to 7pm, and Saturday from 9:30am to 4pm. Closed Sundays, Mondays, Austerity Saturdays, and holidays.

This project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services LS-253665-OLS-23.

JKPL is an equal opportunity provider and employer. (PR)

JKPL is excited to sponsor a Literary Character Costume Contest. There will be a \$150 cash prize for the winner of the Costume Contest. The contest is open only to race/walk participants. All minor participants of the Costume Contest must be accompanied by a participating parent/guardian of the race/walk. Library card holders preferred.

For more information about the 3rd Annual Friends of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library 5K Fun Run/Walk, contact Omar or Caitlyn at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Li-

ANDRES

From page 20

ute in, a good overhand right clip thrown by landed Camacho on his back. Reyes then returned the favor on the ground as he tried to get his punches in while Camacho defended.

In the end though, Camacho controlled most of the fight

and landed more vicious blows that left Reyes more bloodied and cut up than Camacho.

The U.S. Marine now based in Hawaii said of his competition, "I had a great experience being able to use my kicks again as opposed to the boxing match I had for the Ring of Fire. Strategy was to fight long, don't force anything."

As to what's next, the 24-year-old said the Bare-knuckle FC event might be coming to Hawaii in June, so he might fight in that.

According to tapology.com, Camacho's amateur MMA record is 1-2-0. Regionally, Camacho is ranked 10th of 16 active Hawaii Amateur Bantamweights.

Last December, Camacho made a long-awaited return back home to Saipan and competed in the Trench Warz Promotions' "Ring of Fire" boxing and kickboxing event.

Camacho was the main event bout against Guam Muay Thai's Jake Albert, where the "Tanapag Beach Bad Boy" won via split decision scoring.

ZARINAE

From page 20

milliseconds faster than her previous personal best of 8.54 seconds. That time was set during the World Athletics Indoor Championship 2018 in Birmingham, United Kingdom.

Saint Lucia's Julien Alfred sprinted into first place in the finals of the 60m event at 6.98 seconds. Second went to Poland's Ewa Swoboda at 7 seconds flat, and third place

was Italy's Zaynab Dosso.

The 26-year-old Sapong said of breaking her PB, "Achieving a personal best is always exciting, even if the time wasn't exactly what I was aiming for. It's a reminder of the progress I've made and the work still ahead."

Reflecting on the competition, she said, "I recognize the need to hone my starts and come off the blocks better." On the experience, she said, "This experience has been humbling, and I'm ea-

ger to continue pushing myself to improve."

As for future competitions, she said she's gearing up for the outdoor season of longer events. She's hopeful for the opportunity to represent the CNMI in the Micronesian Games in the Marshall Islands from June 15 to 24.

The Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence program coordinator thanked Northern Marianas Athletics development manager and coach

Elias Rangamar and the entire NMA family for their unwavering support and guidance.

"And to my dear family, friends, and my NMCADSV team, your words of encouragement have been a constant source of strength. Thank you for always believing in me!" said Sapong.

The 2024 World Athletics Indoor Championships is the 19th edition of the international indoor track and field competition, organized by the World Athletics.

MHS

From page 20

the MHS geometry teacher.

He then thanked TanHoldings, the Northern Marianas Badminton Association, and the CNMI PSS Athletics Program.

Before the awards ceremony, NMBA president Merlie

Tolentino said a few words. She thanked all the tourney's volunteers, line judges, and NMBA board members. She also announced that there will be the year's first local badminton tourney this month and that in July, there are two international tournaments taking place on Saipan.



LEIGH GASES

Marianas High School 1's mixed doubles partners during their service against Saipan Southern High School in the finals of the NMBA-PSS Co-ed High School Interscholastic Badminton League 2023-2024 last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



Gobert, Conley power Timberwolves past Trail Blazers, 119-114.

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Friends of the JKPL 5K Fun Run/Walk on April 13.

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

MHS defends badminton title after finals thriller

By **LEIGH GASES**
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Marianas High School Dolphins successfully won two titles in a row in the NMBA-PSS Co-ed High School Interscholastic Badminton League.

They defended their title and clinched the 2023-2024 championship against a formidable Saipan Southern High School Manta Rays in the final round, 3-2, last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



With Robles and Manacop were Charmaine Bautista, Marlon Bautista, Dave Odicka, Ser-nantie Jimenez, Prapti Mondal, Paulo Quidato, and Vianca Mangulabnan.

With Burgos and Torregosa were Mai Peteres, Shaina Malonzo, Mariel Hembra, Lency Sagarino, Yu Ling Chai, Nolan Nate, Jin Tao, and Trever Reyes.

Third place went to ACS after they fell to SSHS in the loser's bracket semis and the double eliminations playoffs.

MHS badminton coach and teacher James Digno said the two-peat felt really good. "The kids have been training since last year. We started in the beginning of the school year and it really showed this year. They were able to defend the championship," he said.

With the final match that determined the champion, he said, "It was a very close match."

As for the strategy, it changed as the matches went on. "Just be ruthless, show no



LEIGH GASES

Marianas High School 1 coed badminton team and coach James Digno, far left, poses with their medals and trophies during the awards ceremony of the NMBA-PSS Co-ed High School Interscholastic Badminton League 2023-2024 last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

mercy. Keep attacking and keep the pressure on," he said. "Southern did a very good job defending. They played their hearts out."

On their win, Digno said he still couldn't process all the

emotions that came with it. With that, he said, "All the drama and training really paid off. Honestly, it's all from them. I'm just there to support and they really worked hard," said

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Andres Camacho wins MMA fight in Crown Fighting Championship 12

By **LEIGH GASES**
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CFC Andres "Tanapag Beach Bad Boy" Camacho won his amateur bantamweight matchup in Crown Fighting Championship 12 MMA event held in Hurricane, Utah last Feb. 24.

In the first fight of the night, Camacho, pummeled Nevada's Javier Reyes and won via decision, 29-27, 29-28, 29-27, after three full rounds.

Camacho opened up the bout with leg kicks that left Reyes unbalanced right away. A few punches were exchanged and Camacho connected another big kick—this time to Reyes' head.

Reyes landed a few punches as Camacho tried to find more openings—then Camacho was

swept off his feet for a few seconds from a head kick that connected on the left side.

The seconds wound down in the first round and Camacho's

pace began to pick up as Reyes' adrenaline wore off. Camacho connected a few jab combos and a high kick that left Reyes wobbling at the knees with less



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Andres "Tanapag Beach Bad Boy" Camacho sweeps a kick at opponent Javier Reyes in their amateur bantamweight matchup during the Crown Fighting Championship 12 MMA event's opening fight held in Hurricane, Utah, last Feb. 24.

than a minute left.

Reyes tried to stay alive and grabbed a hold of Camacho to catch his breath to let the seconds pass before Camacho unleashed another flurry of punches as the round ended.

Round 2 opened up even more explosively as the first and both fighters exchanged clips at the other's head and body. Camacho got Reyes on the ground from a strong left cross and began to batter Reyes' face and pin him down. Camacho couldn't capitalize and end the fight right there though as Reyes held on despite blow after blow on his face.

By the final round, both fighters were exhausted and it showed. The match could've been called either way at this point. About more than a min-

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Zarinae breaks PR in Scotland

By **LEIGH GASES**
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Zarinae Sapong sprinted to her personal best time of 8.33

seconds in the 60m dash event of the 2024 World Athletics Indoor Championships in Glasgow, Scotland last Saturday.



The championships was held from Friday, March 1, to Sunday, March 3, with Sapong's event scheduled for Saturday, March 2.

In her heat, Sapong sprinted against the world's fastest sprinters and came in .21

See ZARINAE on Page 19



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Zarinae Sapong poses for a photo before her 60m race in the 2024 World Athletics Indoor Championships in Glasgow, Scotland last Saturday. She set a new personal best time of 8.33 seconds.